Manglona seeks participation in next Rota session. » PAGE 2

Senate: Proposed annual budget doesn't include payments for judgments. » PAGE 14

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Alter City bags casino license

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—In the backdrop hung the specter of other past and failed casino applicants, but Tinian gaming regulators on Friday chose to move forward with the promise of Alter City Group's planned billion-dollar casino resort replete with jobs and landmark tourist sites, handing the investors a conditional casino operator's license on Tinian Friday.

In a unanimous vote, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission found the applicants Alter City Group Inc. and its shareholders, chair Kin Ian Leong and managing director Ken Lin, suitable for a casino operator license.

Among others, Alter City must submit to the commission

See CASINO on Page 4

Youn is Chamber's 2015 Business Person of the Year

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Alex Youn is Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year for 2015.

Youn is the president of Ace Investment Group, LLC, which is a real estate investment and development company and AC Pacific, LLC which is operating as Star Sands Plaza—I Love Saipan.

In his brief acceptance speech during Saturday's Chamber installation dinner at the Fiesta Resort & Spa, Youn said he wasn't expecting the award since he is not well known.

"I wasn't expecting to receive this award. The reason was, I spoke to Ms. Vicky [Benavente] this afternoon, and we were discussing about some voluntary work," Youn said.

Benavente was last year's recipient of the Chamber award.

"At the end of the conversation, she told me, 'I never

See YOUN on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Alex Youn, president of AC Pacific, LLC (Star Sands Plaza), is this year's recipient of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year award. He was selected among four other nominees this year namely Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions, Nola Hix of Xerox Corp., Jody Jordahl of Bridge Capital, LLC, and Rose Soledad of IT&E.

Torres to biz community: Hire more US citizens and locals

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres called on the business community to continue their partnership with the government and urged them to hire more U.S. citizens and locals for the benefit of the Commonwealth's workforce.

Torres

Addressing various leaders during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's installation dinner at the Fiesta Resort and Spa last Saturday, Torres emphasized the need to keep the business sector open and prosperous.

"Our economic growth and development is the source of our funding to address the numerous issues facing our Commonwealth," Torres said, "In short, your business establishment deserves the continued protection of our government, the assurance that laws remain stable and conducive to our business environment, and the same time we need you so that we can continue with our economic growth."

Torres said his administration will be working with

See TORRES on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

More than 1 million low-income residents in 21 states could soon lose their government food stamps.

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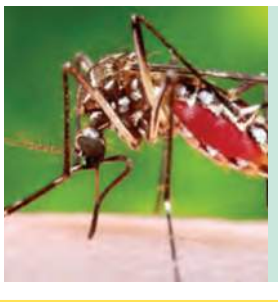

HEALTH & FITNESS

Around the fifth month of her pregnancy, Daniele Ferreira dos Santos fell ill with a high fever and angry red splotches on her skin.

» PAGE 18

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Local

Manglona seeks participation in next Rota session

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Rota Legislative Delegation session has been rescheduled for today, Monday, but soon-to-be senator Paul Manglona has requested to have the session postponed to accommodate his participation.

Manglona asked the session be moved in a letter to delegation chair Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) on Friday.

Manglona said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would soon be making his appointment to the Senate to fill in the vacant seat of Rota.

The seat was vacated when then-Senate president Victor Hocog ascended to post of lieutenant governor following the passing of late governor Eloy S. Inos in December.

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan earlier said whoever was the second-highest vote-getter in the 2014 election for Rota senator's position will take the seat. That means that the former senator Manglona will fill up the position of Hocog, considering that he finished third in the Senate race for Rota behind Steven K. Mesngon and Teresita A. Santos.

The CNMI provides that "a vacancy in the Legislature shall be filled by special election if one-half or more of the term remains." The law also provides that "if less than one-half of the term remains, the governor shall fill up the vacancy by appointing the unsuccessful candidate for the office in the last election who received the largest number of votes and is willing to serve or, if no candidate is available, a person qualified for the office from the district represented."

In his letter, Manglona notes an item scheduled for discussion, House local bill 19-44, which will appropriate $2 million specifically allotted to Rota by the public law 18-56, or the casino law that established a casino on Saipan.

Manglona asked the delegation to postpone the session until after his appointment

He said he would like to partake in the delegation's discussions and actions, "especially on items pertaining to local appropriations."

"I have no intention to delay or derail any critical or important programs and projects," he said. "However as an incoming representative of our people, I know I can contribute towards a productive discussion on how our meager resources can best be put to sue to address the critical needs of our community."

Manglona was the longest serving member of the Legislature after 25 years, thrice as Senate president, until Hocog defeated him in the 2012 elections.

In November 2013, Manglona returned to the Senate after then-acting governor Jude Hofschneider appointed him to the 18th Senate when the CNMI Supreme Court ruled that the unsuccessful candidate in the 2012 election—and not in the 2009 polls—should be appointed to the seat vacated by former Rota senator Juan M. Ayuyu.

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Local GOP to endorse candidate in March

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The local Republican Party will endorse a presidential candidate next month.

Meanwhile, Guam's Republican Party officially endorsed U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz on Friday ahead of the Iowa causes this week. Cruz right now trails GOP frontrunner Donald Trump, according to stateside polls.

"We will endorse the nominee via votes of the locally elected delegates" in March, local GOP spokesperson Ivan Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

Typically, the three Pacific territories—Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands—and Hawaii back the same candidate for the GOP nomination, according to Cruz strategic consultant Dennis Lennox in an email.

Hawaii, with 19 delegates, has its caucus on March 8; American Samoa, with nine delegates, has its caucus on March 22; and the Northern Mariana Islands, also with nine delegates, holds its convention on March 15.

The Iowa caucus is slated for Monday (mainland time) and the Guam caucus on March 12.

In his endorsement letter, Gov. Eddie Calvo—Guam chairman of "Cruz for President"—said Cruz and he share many views on fiscal and foreign policy.

On immigration, Calvo said the federal government has "imposed the most liberal immigration policy in U.S. history upon our island with contrition, recompense, or even acknowledgement." "Your concern over and solutions to the mismanagement and irresponsibility of the federal government in reckless immigration policy will serve our island well," Calvo said.

On the protection of the rights of citizens to speak and protest, to worship, and to protect themselves and bear arms, Calvo said he wishes the federal government would understand how meaningful it is for someone in Washington to recognize that these rights are even more important to a territory "often burdened by the federal behemoth."

"Your crusade against the consolidation of federal pow-

See GOP on Page 3

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Tinian Hot Pepper Festival
Feb. 13-14, 2016

The 12th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 13-14, 2016, highlighting the island's famously potent "donne sali" pepper. The two-day island-style celebration, known as the Pika Festival by locals, showcases local cuisine laced with the "pika" (spicy), eye-watering condiment.

Festival times will be from 2-11 p.m. on Feb. 13 and from 2-11 p.m. on Feb. 14. Activities will include non-stop live entertainment and arts and crafts sales. Competitions slated for the event include the "estafao pika" (spicy soup) cooking contest, the umang (hermit crab) races, a dragon boat race, and the donni sali eating competition, itself. The event will be held again this year at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose.

Although the annual Tinian Turquoise Blue and Reef Swim will not be held this year, a Pika Bike Race will be held on Feb. 13 at 6 a.m. at Kammer Beach, also the finish line. The 65K race is sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), Tinian Mayor's Office, and Bikers Association of Tinian. Ferry transportation between Saipan and Tinian is being arranged by the MVA for the festival weekend and a schedule will be announced shortly.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

CNMI's war on 'ice' will continue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Robert A. Guerrero took his oath on Friday as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Guerrero stressed the need to continue the war on methamphetamine or "ice" waged by his predecessor, James Deleon Guerrero.

Guerrero asked all local law enforcement agencies to continue to work collaboratively with DPS to make the community safer particularly on the war on "ice."

"It has been proven that working together as one shows that we cover more grounds," said Guerrero in his speech during the swearing-in ceremony at the DPS Central in Susupe. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres administered the oath.

The commissioner asked federal law enforcement agencies to continue to work together with DPS to achieve the goal of eradicating the "ice" problem in the CNMI.

To DPS personnel, Guerrero said in the past weeks, they've made plans and that now is the time to put all that to work.

"We need to continue to prove our community that we are the CNMI's finest," he said. "We need to vigilantly pursue our war on 'ice,' no matter what it takes," he said.

Guerrero expressed gratitude and appreciation to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog for their confidence in appointing him as DPS commissioner.

He thanked his family, mother, late father, and siblings and their family for supporting him along the way.

Last April, Guerrero was sworn in as commissioner of the Department of Corrections. He succeeded James C. Deleon Guerrero as DPS commissioner.

Torres appealed to DPS personnel for their patience, understanding, and cooperation as the administration will initiate "changes."

Torres urged DPS to continue the war on "ice" in the Commonwealth.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Robert A. Guerrero takes his oath as Department of Public Safety commissioner before Gov, Ralph DLG Torres during the swearing-in ceremony at DPS Central in Susupe on Friday. Also in the photo are Guerrero's wife and Police Officer Patrick Arriola.

GOP

From Page 2

er means something real and vital to the future of Guam and the protection of our culture, language, and the political and economy we need to thrive," Calvo said. "It has been a crushing and ever-increasing burden for years."

GARAGE SALE

When: Saturday, February 6 from 8 am – 12 noon
Where: Beach Road (Parking lot next to MVA)
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COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's Office (Conference Room) at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

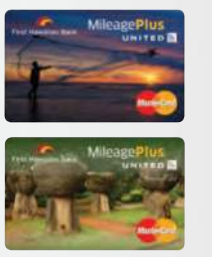
The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of Minutes – December 23, 2015
II. **REPORTS:**
   A. Report by the Chairman
   B. Report by the Executive Director
III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
   A. **UNLV International Gaming Institute** – *Update on the Casino Regulatory Training*
V. **NEW BUSINES**
   A. **CNMI Casino Regulations** – Consideration of amending published regulations based on public comments for Adoption in the Regulations
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VII. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

~~One day~~, I'll soar the skies.



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Guam/Saipan	**Hong Kong**	Economy starting at $538	2 Days	30 Days	FHB16A	01 Feb 16 – 31 May 16 or 16 Sep 16 – 14 Dec 16	02 Mar 16
		Business starting at $1933	NIL	12 Months		01 Feb 16 – 31 Dec 16	
Guam/Saipan	**Palau**	Economy starting at $525	2 Days	30 Days	FHB16A	01 Feb 16 – 31 Dec 16	02 Mar 16
		Business starting at $1035	NIL	12 Months			

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For United ticketing agent, refer to CORE Reservations > Promos and Communications > FHB.

Velma Palacios takes helm of Chamber

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New leaders of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce were sworn in at Fiesta Resort and Spa last Saturday.

IT&E's Velma Palacios is replacing Alex Sablan who served the last three years as president. Sablan will serve the Chamber's board this year as its secretary.

Vice president of the board is Chris Concepcion of Delta Airlines and Deloitte & Touche's Mike Johnson will serve as treasurer.

Other members of the board are Natalie Mable Ayuyu of Re/Max Realty, Wayne Gillespie of Kaynomi Enterprises, Triple J's Perry Inos Jr., and CE Bud White who was off-island.

They were sworn in by Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman.

In his outgoing speech, Sablan paid tribute to the late governor Eloy S. Inos. Aside from calling on members of the Chamber to take a more active role in their committees, Sablan also took the opportunity to reiterate the need to address the needs of the Commonwealth particularly when it comes to labor and workforce

Sablan said that over 18,500 employees will be required just for hotel and casino development alone—not including Tinian's requirement.

"With a quota of 11,999 CW visas and roughly 1,600 remaining up for grabs, it'll be tough to realistically believe we can fill the remaining 15,000 estimated workforce with Micronesians, Guamanians, and mainlanders," Sablan said.

Sablan said these are the reasons why the Chamber has asked for the CNMI's lobbying effort in Washington, D.C. to begin sooner to ensure U.S. Congress understands what's at stake in the CNMI.

While Sablan said that the CW visa will be needed beyond the 2019 expiration of the program, it is also needed to follow the law and transition skilled workers who are CW visa holders to H-visa.

"This measure has many wins. First it follows the spirit of the CNRA law that CW visas are for non-skilled vocations not classified in the H-visa system, second it provides prevailing wage so that U.S. Citizens that vie for these positions have a decent wage," Sablan said, "And third, when no U.S. citizen can be found for the position it provides the foreign national worker a decent wage that commensurate with their credentials."

In her incoming president's speech, Palacios also stated the issues in the community that they have to address including the workforce.

"While we've made some progress, we're going to push hard this year to build in the success of 2015, to aggressively move things forward and work in partnership with the administration, the Legislature, and our U.S. representative in Congress. We will work on collecting data required to make our case about our workforce requirements," Palacios said.

Palacios also said that she will continue on growing the number of the Chamber's membership which has been steadily increasing in 2015.

"I am incredibly excited for the year and look forward to working closely with you," Palacios said.

The Chamber also recognized outgoing board member Ron Smith who was given a plaque of appreciation.

"Ron has been a very valuable member of the board," Sablan said.

TORRES

From Page 1

businesses to foster an open dialogue—later on calling on quarterly communication between both sides—and to create an environment for them to do better.

"One way to do so is to make the everyday interactions with government services more seamless. I am pursuing options to provide an online payment portal for government payments that keeps you from taking time out of your days to pay your taxes, or to make payment on fees," Torres said.

Another way to help, according to Torres, is to ensure the long-term success of the whole.

"The second way I wish to work alongside you is to ensure that the rates of our growth do not affect the long-term success of our commonwealth. Economic growth is good. But too much of anything can be a bad thing," Torres said.

"Allowing unrestrained growth, without direction and purpose, will only serve to negatively affect the societal goals we wish to achieve," he added.

Torres then reminded the businesses community to prepare for the potential loss of foreign workers after 2019.

"We must accept the fact that although we will do all we can to protect the availability of foreign workers in the CNMI, we cannot be certain what will happen after the immigration transition phase expires," Torres said.

"I want every business establishment of all sorts: Prioritize U.S. citizens and residents in our workforce. Hire U.S. citizens and our local residents because we need them," he added.

Torres assured the business sector that they have his commitment in their relationship.

"We need to continue this dialogue in greater detail. If you provide me with recommendations, I will listen. I may not agree all the time, but we can disagree while still being on the same page," Torres said.

CASINO

From Page 1

all current financial statements within 120 days following the issuance of the casino operator's license. Within 120 days, ACG must to the satisfaction of the commission, submit evidence of verifiable source of funds used to the date as proposed for the development of operations to the casino. ACG must also provide requested documents to the support of the wealth of Leong and Lin. Failure to adequately respond to this request shall result in suspension the commission's approval of the ACG until such time as adequate documentation.

"Today starts a new era for Tinian's casino industry," Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas said at the public hearing for the license at the Tinian Superior Court.

San Nicolas opened public comments by extending his full endorsement. Sen. President Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), among other Tinian leaders, also expressed full support

Over the past year Tinian has faced many setbacks culminating in the closure of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, San Nicolas said. The municipality of Tinian for the past 18 years has relied on casino tax revenues to fund many of its public programs and provide jobs for local residents, he said.

"With the closure of Tinian's only casino, we have faced considerable challenges just to pay the employees funded under the local budget as well as to maintain the most basic services like medical assistance," San Nicolas said.

Full disclosure

Commissioner Lydia Barcinas—referring to findings of their investigator—expressed concerned about "the lack of transparency regarding the sources of funds that are going to used for this project."

"…We do need additional information that we had requested and had not been given," she said. Barcinas noted Leong's plan to pay for the first phase of construction of the casino, which is about $150 million. "How are you going to go about that if you don't show in your finances that you have the $150 million?"

In response, ACG lawyer Robert Torres noted these were Chinese language documents that needed to be accurately translated by a reputable accounting firm. "So that they have notary certificate and the legitimacy in the presentation," he said.

"If we don't produce we know we are not going to continue with a casino license. The documents are going to be provided…" that will answer the questions about financial capability of the two shareholders and the resources and sources of funds for the project, said Torres,

"They are available" and will be translated. "That is our intention."

During public comments, former commission executive director Lucia Blanco-Maratita—ousted from the position a week before the hearing—stressed that suitability and integrity are married with compliance.

"We are going to see a lot of money coming into Tinian… We do want medical referral, better medical services, better schools, scholarships—we want all those things," she said. "Money is good, if it is used for the benefit of Tinian. But the issue, though, is that having bags of money is not enough.

Blanco-Maratita pointed to the past parade of casino applicants that have come to the island in the last 30 years only to see the commission grant a license while the applicants "sit and lag and do not produce any income for Tinian."

She stressed the commission impose conditions with "clear, concrete, and finite timeline."

"In the three years, I was with the commission, we've seen months where there were no collections," she said. "

"…Those are lessons that we should learn."

Casino plans

According to Albert Davia, senior vice president of gaming and business development of ACG's Plumeria Golf and Casino Resort, on the vast 150 hectare property in Puntan Diablo will rise a "world class" facility replete with multiple towers, hotel rooms, timeshare apartments and villas; bars, luxury retail shops, pool and spa facilities, community centers, farmer's markets, and a theme park.

"We want to form a destination that will appear on the maps worldwide," Davia said in a presentation Friday.

"Why did we choose Tinian? It's the closest U.S. territory in Asia and there's a safety factor that goes with that. We have a visa waiver program. The gaming industry is on the cusp—in our belief—to boom.

He said the development of the property is worth $1.2 million; encompassing 6,000 rooms, 100 gaming tables, and 250 slot machines.

The casino itself will be 265,000 square feet of gaming and over three floors,

"Our market very clearly is to spread the risk," he said. "We are not Best Sunshine [International, Ltd]. We do not want to be Best Sunshine."

He said they would spread the risk by having a mass gaming area, a premium gaming area, and a VIP gaming area in breaking up the casino into three floors.

Davia said their contribution in BGRT over the next 25 years will be $819 million, with $145 million in infrastructure development; $452 million gaming taxes over the next 25 years; $23 million in BGRT from gaming revenue;

"Most importantly," he said, "We want to create $5,000 jobs on this island."

"We are conservative. But we feel very strongly we can deliver on this. Our mission is to be a destination where people can stay, play, enjoy and most importantly can't wait to return."

"Our vision is to place Tinian on the map for travelers worldwide," he said.

On labor concerns, Barcinas and Maratita both noted the needs for labor development plans for upward mobility for locals.

Torres said they would look to partner with the Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Technical Institute to develop these workers.

He said if they are going to bring in skilled casino personnel from abroad they will also need to develop an internship and a partnership program, "where our local workforce" gets trained.

"Any person in the Commonwealth can do anything and everything that anyone else from Atlantic City to Las Vegas can do...the work starts now to build the capacity," he said.

Commissioner Joe Kiyoshi also asked to involve the commission in the working group for labor development.

"[The Public School System] should start changing the way we teach our kids," he said. "My vision is Tinian will become the mecca of casino and gambling and the only way to find the labor is through PSS. We have kids who are graduating and have no where to go."

YOUN

From Page 1

met you. Do I know you?' So I was thinking that last year's recipient don't even know me so I would never get a chance to win because I'm sure she didn't vote for me," he added light-heartedly.

Youn is a graduate of Marianas High School and later on studied in New Delhi, India, majoring in South East Asian studies.

Upon returning to the island, he worked initially as sales manager for the Korean market of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. He later on worked as the general manager of the U.S Fashion Group, managing Papaya Clothing, Everblue Factory Outlet, and Sports America. In 2008, he moved to AC Pacific, LLC.

Aside from his business roles, Youn also served important Korean-CNMI relational organizations. He was appointed as Civilian Consular Assistant by the Consulate Republic of Korea and has served the Korean Association of Saipan board of directors for three years. He was also appointed by the president of the Republic of Korea as a member of the National Reunification Council for three years.

Youn is also currently serving as the vice president of the Korean Taekwondo Association of Saipan.

Youn thanked the Chamber and added that he will be taking on a more active role as a member.

"Looking at everybody, I only know 30 percent of the members here tonight. I think I should be more active in the Chamber's committee work." Youn said.

"Thank you very much and it's my honor to be here and I would like to say thank you to all the members of the Chamber of Commerce and my management team," he said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) also awarded Youn with a Congressional commendation.

"Thank you for your contribution to our commonwealth and to the businesses," Sablan said, handing out a plaque to Youn.

"I try to do this every year to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year," he added.

In an interview, Youn said he is looking at joining the Chamber's small business committee.

Youn said his business, the fruits of his labor, were the ones recognized by the awards.

"I personally think that my business is recognized, not me. I'm not very well known…but I think I got this award because of the reputation of my business," Youn said.

Other nominees this year are Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions, Nola Hix of Xerox Corp., Jody Jordahl of Bridge Capital, LLC, and Rose Soledad of IT&E.

The nominations were judged by the recipients of the prestigious award in the past 18 years including last year's winner Vicky Benavente of Pacific Islands Club who presented the award Youn, Marcie Tomokane of Bank of Guam (2013), James Arenovski of Delta Management Corp (2011), Robert "Bob" Jones of Triple J Corporation (2010), and Vicente "Ben" Babauta of DFS Saipan (2009) to name a few.

Manila sent to Guam for medical treatment

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reynaldo Manila, a Filipino national jailed at the Department of Corrections, flew to Guam at 8:45am Friday for medical treatment on his eye, according to special assistant for communications and protocol Ivan Blanco.

On Jan. 6, 2016, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres denied commutation for Manila as recommended by the CNMI Board of Parole after taking into account discussions with the Attorney General's Office and other enforcement agencies.

"The administration made the necessary arrangements for Mr. Manila to seek medical treatment in Guam as required under the CNMI Constitution," Blanco said in an email.

This was made possible through the assistance of CBP, the CNMI AG's Office, the DEA Taskforce, and other federal, local, and Guam partners.

Manila is expected to receive treatment on Jan. 31. While in Guam, he will be confined at the Guam Adult Correctional Facility.

On Dec. 22, the CNMI Board of Parole unanimously voted to support commuting Manila's 60-year prison sentence so he could seek treatment in the Philippines. Manila is 54 years old and has served 15 years so far and is five years away from being eligible for parole.

Manila was 39 years old when then-Superior Court associate judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim sentenced him in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second-degree murder over the death of the infant.

The baby lingered in the hospital for several days before dying on Nov. 6, 2000.

A jury found Manila guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse.

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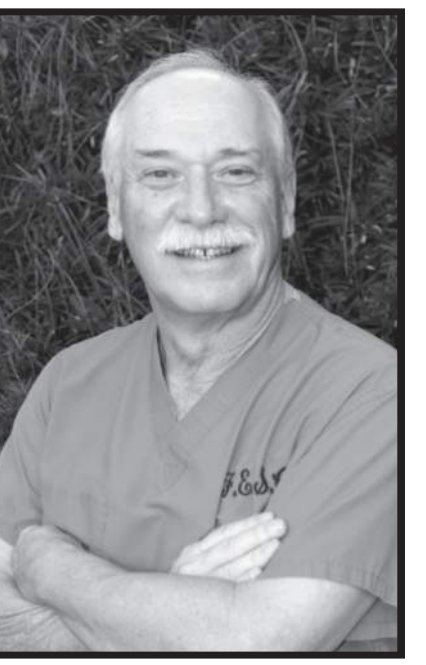

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GCA is Academic Challenge Bowl champs

Grace Christian Academy bested 13 other middle schools to rule the 14th Annual CNMI Academic Challenge Bowl held last Saturday at the Saipan Southern High School's cafeteria.

SSHS' National Honor Society organizes the Academic Challenge Bowl for middle schools, while Marianas High School hosts the elementary division.

GCA made it to the finals after being one of the three teams that finished on top following the morning's elimination round. The top three schools battle it out for the championship round.

Each team consists of five members with three assigned to compete and two as alternates. Substitutions are allowed but only after each round and coaches are given two minutes to decide if they would make changes.

Dandan Middle School and Hopwood Junior High School joined GCA in the finals where three representatives from each school were peppered by 140 questions ranging from easy to hard.

Every correct answer the easy round is worth 5 points, medium 10 points, and hard 15 points.

The questions came from subjects in art, computers, current events, English, history, mathematics, physical education, science, and social studies. Teams are given a longer time limit when solving math problems.

Dandan and Hopwood changed one of their teammates, while GCA opted to stick with the trio of Arvin Dayao, Miku Kimura, and Harry Noh in the finals.

GCA trio collected 980 points, while Hopwood finished second with 905 points and Dandan was third with 830 points.

GCA coach Susan S. Pajarillaga, who is also the vice principal of the school, said they only had two weeks to form the team.

"We were invited last December when Karen [Echon] asked if we wanted to join, we said yes. But it was only two weeks that we managed to form the team," Pajarillaga said. "We chose the members of the team based on the subjects where they are good at."

JON PEREZ

Coach Susan S. Pajarillaga, left, joins members of Team Grace Christian Academy for a group photo after winning the 14th Annual CNMI Academic Bowl Challenge held last Saturday at the Saipan Southern High School's cafeteria.

"To God be the glory. We return everything to him these are talented kids but with prayers and God's help we won," added the visibly ecstatic Pajarillaga.

Seventh grader Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga and eighth grader Jabez Victoria were the other members of the team. They took care of sports and physical education and social studies and current events, respectively.

Kimura, a sixth grader, handled social studies and English questions, while Dayao, aside from English, was also in charge of answering questions about computers. Noh, also an eighth grader like Dayao and Victoria, took care of science and math.

Xue Zhen Quin, Kennedy Vila, Glen Matalog, Joel Pagcaliwagan, and Microl Chen are all eight graders at Hopwood and coached by Sharleen Crisostimo, while Grace Zhang, Cody Escoto, Rej De Leon, and Rio Ayu Shadow are the members of DMS with James Montenegro and Rachel Reyes as coaches.

Agape Christian School, Chacha Ocean View Junior High School, Green Meadows School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Mt. Carmel School, Northern Marianas International School, Rita Hocog Inos Junior High School, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, San Antonio Middle School, and Tinian Junior High School were the other competing teams. ***(Jon Perez)***

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HONDA

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Dandan MS, Kagman HS rule MTEC photo contest

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Winners of the Marianas Tourism Education Council photo contest were awarded at the Tourism Summit held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Thursday.

Students from various schools submitted their photos in line with the theme, "One Ocean, One Heart."

Dandan Middle School ruled the first category which is for fifth through eighth graders.

Kozmy Porras, Connie Mendiola, and Ronaldo Manzano—all seventh graders from Dandan MS—took home the first, fourth, and fifth places.

Sixth to eight graders of the MyWAVE Club of San Antonio Middle School won second place, while Everly Caronan, a sixth grader from Garapan Elementary School, placed third.

Kagman High School, on the other hand, dominated the high school category.

Twelfth graders Samantha Santos, Hans Christian Sante, and Lennox Iderbei of Kagman HS took home the first, third and fifth.

Santos' photo featured three girls holding their raised hands at the beach had a caption that said, "we are all connected by a body of ocean. The reason we held hands because no matter the race or ethnicity, we are one. We are a whole."

Saipan Southern High School's ninth grade student Dayna Jeanne Cabrera took second place while Marianas High School's Jameson Kui Lee, a 12th grader, placed fourth.

Aside from cash prizes of $25, $50, $75, $100, and $125 for the fifth through first placers, gift certificates from DFS Galeria, Sand Castle, and PIC were awarded to the winners.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Two of the 10 winners of the Marianas Tourism Education Council photo contest were awarded at the Tourism Summit held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Thursday. Aside from cash prizes, they were also given gift certificates.

Early morning of Thursday, January 28, 2016, Ms. Rose Ann Tabora stopped by at Twins Market in Dandan on her way home from work to buy some bread. As she was checking out, she decided to purchase two Lucky Pig Tickets with her remaining change. To her surprise, she instantly won $1000! She went back to Twins Market later in the afternoon to claim her prize. Congratulations and good luck to all.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-16-004

SURVEYED VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment located in Saipan & Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-ITB-16-004, CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles & equipment. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles/equipment to the prospective bidder in an "**As is, Where is**" condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles/equipment.

The vehicles/equipment may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 664-4282 extensions 367 & 305. For the vehicles on Tinian, please contact Winston Omar at 433-9261 or 433-3488.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2016, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

BOARD of REGENTS
Northern Marianas College
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Time: 3:00p.m.
Venue: Board Regents Conference Room
Saipan Campus

ORDER of BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER
a. Roll Call
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENT: Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes
III. OLD BUSINESS
a. Board Resolution No. 2016-02
IV. NEW BUSINESS
a. Memorandum of Agreement with NMTI (CW Funds)
b. Facilities Plan
V. EXECUTIVE SESSION (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
a. Legal Matters
b. Personnel Matters
VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Regent Frank M. Rabauliman Date: January 29, 2016
BOR Chairperson

2016CNMI
LIBERATION FESTIVITIES

SKYWALKER

$500 SLOGAN CONTEST!

Your Slogan Here!

Join the 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Committee Slogan Contest!

The 2016 Fourth of July Liberation Day Committee invites the public to submit their creative ideas for the official slogan for the 71st Anniversary Liberation Festivities!

Slogans should represent the positive attitudes and significance of this year's celebration.

Deadline to submit slogans with names and contact information is before 4:00pm on Monday, February 29th at the Saipan Mayor's office or liberationcnmi@gmail.com.

Thank You and Good Luck!

Probation wants 30-year jail term for ex-firefighter

The U.S. Probation Office has recommended the imposition of sentence of 30 years imprisonment on Richard Sullivan Benavente, a former firefighter who pleaded guilty for sexually exploiting a minor girl.

The 30-year sentence, or 360 months, is the same recommendation by the U.S. government against Benavente.

Attorney Michael W. Dotts, counsel for Benavente, said with the U.S. Probation's recommendation of 360 months, the statutory maximum, he (Dotts) wants to address the issues carefully and thoroughly.

Dotts requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to continue Benavente's sentencing and extend time for filing sentencing memorandum.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Tuesday granted Benavente's request and ordered that the sentencing hearing currently set for Feb. 1, 2016, is continued to Feb. 22, 2016, at 9am.

Manglona extended the deadline for defendant to file his sentencing memorandum to Feb. 15.

Dotts said the U.S. government indicated that it does not oppose the motion.

The lawyer said the reason for this request is that the sentencing issues involved in this case are fairly complicated.

Dotts also stated that he currently has a supplemental brief due in two civil cases today, Jan. 29 that involves novel constitutional issues and requires extensive research.

Dotts said he needs more time to prepare the sentencing memorandum in Benavente's case.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton had earlier informed the court that they intend to seek the statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in this case, irrespective of what the applicable sentencing guidelines range is ultimately held to be.

In 2013, a federal grand jury indicted Benavente on several counts of sexual exploitation of a child. He cooperated with authorities and entered into a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

In February 2014, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sexual exploitation of a child.

On Sept. 9 and 10, 2014, Benavente testified at the trial of Raymond Roberto, who was charged with coercion and enticement of some of the same minors that Benavente sexually exploited.

At the trial, the prosecution presented evidence that Roberto used a prepaid SIM card with a number ending in x3443 to contact the girls for sex.

Testifying for the defense, Benavente testified that, from mid-June to July of 2013, he in fact used the x3443 SIM card to contact the minors.

Roberto was acquitted.

Because of Benavente's testimony, the U.S. government asked the court to find him in breach of his plea agreement for allegedly lying about his use of the x3443 SIM card during the Roberto trial.

Last October, Manglona determined that Benavente lied in his testimony at the Roberto's trial.

The judge said by giving false testimony at the Roberto trial, Benavente materially breached his plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Roberto used to serve as acting director of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_ctr@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than February 8, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, in Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English.
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1lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs with 1 Cup Toast Salad $70
STEAK
New York 12oz. $32
Steak Combo
Mahi or Salmon 6oz Tender Loin with Soup $32
Rib Eye 14oz. with Corn Soup $35
Two Side Dishes of Choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of sauce: Sunshine/Bernaise/Demiglaze
RIBS
The Original Baby Back Ribs
Full Slab 10-12 bones $30
Baby Back Ribs 9-10 bones $28
Half Baby Back Ribs 6-7 bones $16
Full Slab Spare Ribs 10-12 bones $27
Half Slab Spare Ribs 5-6 bones $15
Two side dishes of choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of Sauce: Regular BBQ Sauce/Hickory Brown Sauce/ Smoky Sauce
BURGER
Cheese Burger $10
8oz. Patty with cut Cello Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles with Mushroom Sauce
Triple Cheese Burger $12
Monterey Jack Cheddar and Provolone
Sides:
One Side Dish of Choice: French Fries, Corn/Broccoli/Rice
COMBO MEAL
Beef Stroganof $12
Chamorro Sausage with Mushroom $10
Stir-Fried Tofu $8
Hot & Spicy Noodle Soup $10
Combo Set $12 Pizza ($11)
Steak/Flank $10
Cheese Burger $10
Chicken Tandoorie $10
Cordon Bleu $16
South Western Chicken $12
Beef Bulgogi $12
Fried Porkchop $10
Combo Seafood $12
Beef Salpecao $10
Calzoni $11
Hawaiian Pizza
Vegetarian Pizza 12"
Four Kind of Cheese Pizza
APPETIZERS
Chicken Wings $8
With Green Bedding Vegetable
Choice of Sauce: Shriracha or Buffalo
Potato Skin $6
Cheese, Bacon and Green Onion
Gambas Al Ajillo $9
7pcs Shrimp with Chili Pepper
Breaded Calamari $9
Sunshine Nachos $9
Tomato, Onion, Cheese, Ground Beef, Sour Cream, Guacamole
Bruschetta $5
French Bread, Tomatoes, Basil Leaves
French Bread with Peas Pesto $5
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Toast Salad $8
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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

New mothers should be screened for depression

"You must be so happy."

It is a heartfelt expression of joy that is commonly uttered to a new mother. But imagine how that expression might sound to a woman who is silently suffering following the birth of a child, feeling frightened or anxious or puzzled or overwhelmed. You must be so happy ... or there's something wrong with you.

Experts estimate that as many as 1 in 7 women suffer from postpartum depression, even though it far too often is dismissed as "the blues," a mere mood rather than the debilitating illness that it is.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine, takes the topic of depression very seriously. The panel on Tuesday renewed its call for widespread screening for depression among adults, and for the first time it specifically recommended evaluations for pregnant women and new mothers. This is a necessary and welcome component of women's health care.

The recommendations are not onerous. The panel said any medical practice, whether a gynecologist or primary care doctor or someone else, can screen a patient. The group recommends using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, a simple, 10-question survey that asks patients to check descriptions that best describe their feelings. For instance, it asks if the patient, in the past seven days, has "been able to laugh and see the funny side of things (1) as much as I always could; (2) not quite so much now; (3) definitely not so much now; or (4) not at all.

If treatment is necessary, it can be as varied as the patients themselves, although the report noted that cognitive behavioral therapy was helpful but some antidepressants can be harmful to the child during pregnancy or breast-feeding.

Depression is an illness as real and debilitating as a broken leg or an infection. It requires treatment, and simply waiting in the hope that symptoms will subside is dangerous. This knowledgeable panel of experts has provided a green light for doctors to broach the topic with their patients.

(c) 2016 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Groundhog Phil

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Punxsutawney Phil is the famous groundhog out of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, whose emergence from "hibernation" is of considerable media coverage since the late 1800 in Pennsylvania. If the rodent emerges from its nap and sees its shadow, it thinks it is still the middle of winter, returns to its borrow and sleeps another 40 days.

A similar tradition in Serbia involves a bear that gets out of its nap and if the day gets a shadow, there's prediction of another 40 days of winter, but if cloudy, spring is at the corner. The rodent groundhog replaced the bear in Pennsylvania but the prediction remains the same. Winter is either delayed or spring comes early.

It is clearly a temperate zone rite much observed by Germans in Pennsylvania where Groundhog Lodges are built, social events held, speeches made and a skit is staged for entertainment. It enlivens the winter doldrums, and given the tradition of the Amish, that's a lot of doldrums to overcome.

The preferred dialect is German imposing itself on everyone, and if you do not *sprechen sie Deutch*, a fine is levied per word of non-Aleman, a nickel, dime, or a quarter, put on a bowl at the center of the table and democratically decided on how it is used.

The celebration got a boost in 1993 when Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliott, et al, made a movie of the same title; a Broadway musical is slated in 2017.

The movie involves a misanthropic Bill Murray caught on a time warp that kept one day repeating, and the self-indulgent Murray character got worst until he decided to make a turn for the better, and he breaks the spell, and gets the girl as well.

The medieval mind was replete with rites and rituals to celebrate the incidence of being profoundly human since we celebrated in doctrine and dogma the confluence of what was then thought as the separation of the mundane and the profound.

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), contemporaneous to the Augustinian Martin Luther (1483-1546) who triggered the Protestant Reformation, was a third order Dominican monk who was also a polyglot and polymath; he practiced as a physician, economist, a classics scholar, diplomat, translator, and governor. He had a doctorate in canon law. He was born and died in Royal Prussia, a region of the Kingdom of Poland.

But he suggested the unthinkable at the time: that the earth was not the center of the universe. Think about it. The dogmas and doctrines of the Catholic Church claims the biblical witness expressed in the metaphors of the day as belonging to a three-tier universe of which the Earth is at the center between heaven and hell. The Reformation was no different. It, too, missed out on the sola fidei vs. sola scriptura, faith vs. authority, debate as the lone source of power in the ecclesiastical structure.

Today, the Catholic Church and children of the Reformation called 'evangelicals' are still quarreling over the source of authority and power, between the infallibility of the Rome or the inerrancy of Biblia. Nobody cares. The issue, in and out of any religious ritual, is whether a rite points to what is authentically human, not who gets a bigger bacon.

So it does not appear like we are yet done with Punxsutawney Phil. We need the rite and ritual of the groundhog. Nothing could be more mundane than a groundhog to represent the quality of a human being, who also goes by external signs to determine its choice; in this case, the power of a shadow.

Hamlet's

... to die, to sleep,
to sleep, perchance to Dream;
aye, there's the rub,
for in that sleep of death,
what dreams may come ...

The indecisiveness is well known. Sen. John McCain, the GOP presidential contender vs. Obama used the phrase "groundhog day" to refer to a repetition cycle, indecisiveness prevails in the negotiations between the U.S. and the DPRK (North Korea) on nuclear weapons. In this case, Pyongyang keeps pushing while Washington wants to nail a treaty down.

Of course, no one really takes the prediction of Punxsutawney Phil seriously. A survey since the tradition started shows that the groundhog was accurate 37 percent of the time, and that's only between two choices. So we really do not go with its prediction. This year predicts a longer winter, but who cares? We need the rite to affirm our humanity, much maligned of late because we did choose to pollute our waters, lands, and skies, and continue to choose the same way, which is to say, as humanly as the groundhog does, in most everything we do.

What decision have we made recently that shows this indecisiveness? My neighbors' daughter from upstate New York is anything but indecisive. The U.S. northeast denizen decided to mosey over the tropics at a time when New England down the East Coast to Virginia is being battered by snow. She did not see her shadow; she came over.

OK. So we get intermittent rain. Wait 15 minutes each time it drizzles and the sun comes out. Longer winter is back "there." Tropical "here" is canoe paddling. Row. Row. And. Row.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Escaped cow teaches us a lesson in compassion

By ALISA MULLINS
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Alisa Mullins is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation.

His name is Freddie. Two weeks ago, he was just a number—one of the 30 million anonymous cows slaughtered for their flesh and skin in the U.S. every year. Today, he's a poster cow for eating vegan.

Freddie became famous when he made a break for it while being unloaded from a truck at a slaughterhouse in Queens, New York, and bolted down a busy street. He was quickly rounded up by police and returned to the slaughterhouse. But by then, his story had gone viral and captured the public's imagination. New York musician Ramona Montanez expressed the sentiments of many with her tweet: "Let the cow live!"

The cow—technically a steer—did live, thanks to Mike Stura, founder of Skylands Animal Sanctuary & Rescue in New Jersey, who drove to the slaughterhouse and waited outside all night in his truck to make sure he was there first thing in the morning when workers arrived. His patience paid off: The slaughterhouse owner agreed to spare the young steer.

"It's nice if one lives once in a while," said Stura.

Freddie had been earmarked for a family who was planning to use his flesh for a "special event," and another cow will probably be killed in Freddie's place—unless the family decides to serve only vegan food at its big do.

Sound unlikely? Perhaps, but it's almost certain that many of the millions of people who heard Freddie's story are looking at their T-bones and hamburgers in a new light. That steak used to be a someone—someone who didn't want to die.

We don't like to give much thought to the billions of animals killed for food every year. It's easier to pretend that they don't suffer when the killing goes on behind closed doors, far away from our kitchen tables, where we can't see the terror in their eyes or hear their screams of protest. We don't like to think about their slaughter: how they are shot in the head with a captive-bolt pistol, are shackled by a hind leg and hoisted up in the air, have their throats slit, and are eviscerated and dismembered—all while fully conscious if the captive-bolt gun happens to be off the mark, as it often is on high-speed automated slaughter lines that kill 19,000 animals every minute.

But when we're brought face to face with our "dinner," as people in Queens were, most of us realize that this animal is not a walking entree—he's an individual who has feelings, just as our dogs and cats do. Just as we do.

People who've never met a cow like Freddie in person often pretend that cows are stupid, because that makes them feel better about eating them. But cows aren't stupid. They're known for their problem-solving capabilities, as well as for being gentle, inquisitive, sociable, amiable and trusting. If their trust in us is misplaced, that reflects badly on us, not them.

Maybe the humans who insist—all evidence to the contrary—that eating meat doesn't hurt animals (or the planet or our health) are the slow-witted ones. In her book, "Do Unto Animals," author Tracey Stewart writes movingly about hearing mother cows on a dairy farm crying for their calves, who'd been taken away to be sold for veal. "Sometimes you have to listen a little harder to understand what an animal is trying to say," she writes. "And sometimes they are saying it so loudly it's hard to imagine people don't hear."

Combatting veteran suicide

By DAVID J. SHULKIN
Tribune News Service

David J. Shulkin is the under secretary for health at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

A national panel of health experts recommended this week that all adults be screened for depression during visits with their primary care providers. That's welcome news at the Department of Veterans Affairs, where we've been screening all veterans in our health care system annually for more than 10 years.

The new recommendation, developed by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, should strengthen our collective resolve to address the toll depression and its potentially devastating consequences, especially suicide, are taking on our society.

At the VA, our sense of urgency is heightened by the discouraging statistic that America's veterans are at higher overall risk for suicide than the general public. Veterans suffering from conditions like depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia and chronic pain are particularly vulnerable.

We are working hard to find solutions to this national tragedy. The VA offers unparalleled clinical mental health care and support services to help veterans who find themselves in crisis and conducts innovative research on suicide prevention.

Among our most important statistical findings to date is that veterans who engage in VA care are less likely to take their own lives than those who don't. This is an encouraging sign that what we are doing to prevent suicide is working, but we must do more.

To that end, the VA is sponsoring a national summit on veteran suicide prevention in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. The summit will bring together VA experts on suicide, veterans and their families, community mental health leaders, and other key partners to focus on how we can all do more to prevent suicide among veterans.

Nearly a year ago, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama, giving the VA additional authority to expand suicide prevention efforts for veterans in partnership with the community. We have made significant progress on implementing the provisions of this legislation, named after a Marine Corps veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan who took his life in 2011.

Hunt's mother and stepfather, Susan and Richard Selke, will be among the speakers at our upcoming summit. Their commitment to improving mental health care for veterans like their son has been inspiring.

We know that veteran suicide is a highly complex problem, but our focused research program is constantly uncovering new and better ways to prevent it. A recent VA study was the first to document that sexual trauma during military service increases the risk of suicide. As we learn more about the conditions and experiences that account for increased suicide risk among veterans, we can develop more evidence-based treatments.

The VA's collaborations with the Department of Defense and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify veterans in every state's mortality data has, for the first time, made it possible to make informed statements about suicide risk among veterans by age, gender, period of service and other important factors.

The VA is also harnessing the "big data" of our unique, national electronic health record to develop and test new interventions based on that data.

Suicide is not always predictable, but it is preventable. As a doctor, I know that when it comes to suicide prevention, there is no substitute for the human connection: sitting down with a veteran; showing genuine concern; taking a military history (rarely done outside the military or VA health systems); asking well-informed questions; and listening to what the veteran has to say.

Strong relationships between veterans and those who care about and for them are critical. To help veterans build and maintain meaningful relationships with their care teams, families and communities, we need the support of all Americans.

We want everyone to know that each of us can make a difference in the life of a veteran in crisis. Just one small act can make a big difference — it can even save a life.

If you are a veteran in crisis, or want to know how you can help one who is, contact the Veterans Crisis Line by calling 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, going to veteranscrisisline.net/chat, or sending a text message to 838255.

You will receive free, confidential support from highly trained and experienced responders. Our responders are available 24 hours a day, seven days a hweek, 365 days a year, and you don't have to be enrolled in VA health care to get help.

We must be vigilant. Our veterans need and deserve the help of every American in preventing suicide. They were there for us when we needed them—now it's our turn to be there for them when they need us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Racism

Racism is everywhere and people could not avoid it. According to Helen Shores Lee, the 10th Judicial Circuit Judge, racism is still alive and growing. Racism will never disappear and people will still continue to judge other people by what skin color they have. No one will find a "common ground" because racism has been everywhere since people have their own thoughts. Sometimes racism will be passed down to younger generations and the cycle of racism starts all over again. What we can do to get away from racism is persuade people, the younger generations, to accept everyone for being who they are and puts every single human in equality. This is only one of the ways to try to have less racism and there are more ways to handle racism.

Helen Huang
Navy Hill

Please support veterans affairs office

As the current governor had said, that he wished to 'Thank' me for my services to the "Inos administration" and the people of the CNMI for my contribution as the Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs executive officer. I too would like to wish the 'New Administration' best of luck and its new EO for the office of MLVA.

Mrs. Bernie B. Dele Cruz and I have strive with nothing but claim forms and loaners of office equipment and temporary used of vehicle from other agencies. I do challenge the new administration to be more sincere of their promises to our CNMI veterans and military personnel from abroad that they will support the next EO on his or her request to fully fund the local programs. As I came on board as the executive officer on Oct. 23, 2015, I discovered that our monthly operations was at all time low of only $251.92; Office computers are loaner from other agencies, no government-owned vehicle. I do believe that if the late governor Inos was with us today, this office will be more efficient due to his support and the love and respect for our veterans and current members of our U.S. Armed Forces from abroad.

I do like to share to our veterans, eligible dependents, and current active duty personnel, that Mrs. Dele Cruz and I have done what we can with little or none to operate/function as an office, but we have manage to meet with the grants office; DPW secretary and his key staff; Echo Company Commander; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; VFW Post #3457 and Kilili's office for support and the expansion of the CNMI Veterans Cemetery, which is currently 65 percent full in Marpi; the preliminary design for the Rota and Tinian satellite veterans cemetery; and a Veterans Clinic which we do not have, the nearly 30-year-old Troop Store, and other benefits that we lack here on our CNMI soil. With that said, please no more empty promises, please support the Office of Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs. WHOAH!

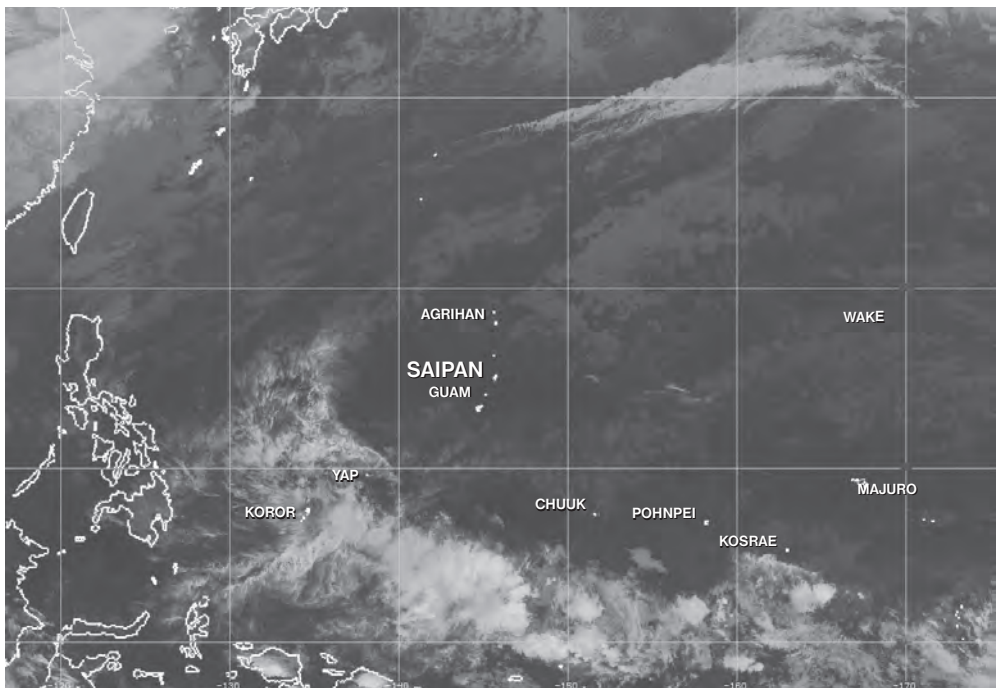
Joseph M. Palacios
U.S. Army (Retired)

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 Mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated Showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:37 PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs southeastward from 8N133E through a tropical disturbance centered southeast of Koror near 2N140E to EQ144E. Low-level convergence near the trough and disturbance is generating scattered showers over parts of Palau and Yap state between 12N and 4N from 130E to 140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Yap and southwest of Chuuk within 140 miles of a line from 6N140E to 2N148E to EQ157E. Low-level convergence near the equator is triggering scattered showers south of Kosrae and the Marshall Islands south of a line from 2N157E to 4M164E to 3N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲71	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲19	▼-1
Hong Kong	Light Rain	▲54	▼48
Honolulu	High Level Clouds	▲73	▼65
London	Cloudy	▲51	▼46
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼31
Manila	Sunny	▲85	▼66
Melbourne	Sunny	▲50	▼52
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲74	▼69
New York	Overcast	▲43	▼38
Osaka	Light Rain	▲37	▼36
Paris	High Level Clouds	▲50	▼47
Pusan	Sunny	▲31	▼17
Rome	Sunny	▲48	▼49
Salem	Rain	▲54	▼43
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲48	▼40
Seoul	Sunny	▲18	▼1
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲33	▼29
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲35	▼34

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
1:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:28 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:03 AM	12:00 PM
Tuesday	12:51 AM	12:42 AM
Wednesday	1:41 AM	1:27 PM
Thursday	2:32 AM	2:15 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	3:07 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Controversial lawyer Jorgensen arrested in Miami over son's disappearance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bruce Lee Jorgensen, the controversial lawyer who was the original counsel in the class action filed by Betty Johnson against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government, was arrested by police in Miami, Florida, last week over the disappearance of his 16-year-old son, who was reportedly last seen on Dec. 27, 2015.

According to news reports from Miami, the 58-year-old Jorgensen was arrested for unlawful desertion of a child at Miami Airport after purchasing a one-way ticket to New Zealand.

Sixteen-year-old Aage Jorgensen was reportedly last seen on Dec. 27 when his father allegedly forced him out of his car in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Sunrise for being rude or disrespectful.

A footage of CBS Miami's news showed that Jorgensen was taken for his initial court appearance before Judge Mindy S. Glazer last Jan. 27 (Miami time).

As Jorgensen was questioning his arrest and explaining things, Judge Glazer reminded him not to talk about the case.

According to news reports, police stated that Jorgensen did not report to them about the disappearance of his son and refused to help them in the investigation.

Someone else reportedly notified authorities about the missing teenager.

Although there was no indication of foul play as the teenager had a history of running away from home, police are concerned as days go by with no trace of him.

CBS Miami said Bruce and Aage Jorgensen moved to Plantation in the summer of 2015 so Aage could play tennis there.

CBS reported that Bruce Jorgensen has been paying in cash for most things, including thousands of dollars in rent and private school tuition for his son.

The reports did not mention that Bruce Jorgensen is a lawyer.

In 2014, the CNMI government agreed to settle Jorgensen's fees and costs in the amount of $800,000 in connection with his representation as counsel for Johnson. The court subsequently approved the deal.

In January 2014, attorney Margery Bronster, a former attorney general of the State of Hawaii who is one of the counsels for Betty Johnson, asked why her co-counsel, Jorgensen, is scared to come to Saipan.

In her declaration, Bronster said Jorgensen, who originated Johnson's class action, never appeared in person at the hearings and settlement negotiations of the case in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"Jorgensen had repeatedly told me that he feared being in Saipan so he would not travel there, but he never explained why," Bronster said.

Bronster, however, disclosed that Jorgensen suddenly appeared one day in June 2013 on Saipan, but immediately left the island apparently because he had been "spotted."

At a hearing in February 2014 in federal court, Jorgensen admitted that he is afraid to come to Saipan because of his representation of Johnson and other previous cases as well as personal matters.

Beautify CNMI meeting today

The Beautify CNMI campaign will hold their first organizational meeting of 2016 next week. The once highly visible coalition was founded in 2006 and spent several years organizing beach cleanups, planting trees, painting over graffiti, and recycling.

There is hope among some of the former volunteers to revive the campaign and to join it with other environmental initiatives taking place on the island today.

"Our goal is to enhance the work of the community," said Beautify CNMI founder Cinta M. Kaipat. "We're not looking to replace existing efforts, but to lift them to new heights."

According to their website, Beautify CNMI! is a coalition of concerned citizens, private groups, and government entities united to enhance the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' natural beauty and foster community pride in its residents and visitors. They have been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Congress for their volunteer work, and were the *Saipan Tribune*'s 2006 Person of the Year.

Interested participants are invited to a meeting today, Feb. 1, 2pm in the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Recency Saipan.

Kaipat will chair the meeting and lead a discussion on how now is a great time to reinvigorate the coalition. Co-founder Angelo Villagomez will make a presentation on how the campaign was created in 2006.

For more information about Beautify CNMI's 10-year history and to join their email list, please visit www.BeautifyCNMI.org. ***(PR)***

District Court of Guam
and
District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE

SECOND AMENDED VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT GUP 16-001

NOTES re Amendments:

1. Amended on January 27, 2016, to conform to judiciary policy requiring only a minimum of three (3) years of specialized experience and defining specialized experience.
2. Amended on January 27, 2016, to clarify that experience in police officer, FBI agent, customs agent, marshal, or similar positions, other than any criminal investigation experience, does not meet the requirements of specialized experience.

Position:	**Chief U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Officer**
Location:	Hagåtña, Guam
District Offices:	Hagåtña, Guam, and Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Salary:	Judiciary Salary Plan - JSP 15 – JSP 16 ($117,376 - $170,400) (Salary commensurate with experience plus 13.70% COLA, which is subject to change)
Closing Date:	February 19, 2016

Position Overview

The U.S. Probation Office for the District of Guam and the District for the Northern Mariana Islands is accepting applications for the position of Chief U.S Probation/Pretrial Services Officer. The Chief Probation/Pretrial Services Officer administers and manages federal probation and pretrial services for both district offices, and reports directly to the Honorable Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge for the District Court of Guam, and the Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Chief Probation/Pretrial Services Officer is under the administrative direction of the Chief Judge of both District Courts. The Probation Office maintains its main office in Hagåtña, Guam, and an office in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The candidate must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible to work in the United States.

Position Requirements

The full version of the Second Amended Vacancy Announcement is available at **http://www.gud.uscourts.gov** and **http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov.** The announcement includes the following: Representative Duties; Qualifications & Specialized Experience; Crediting of Substantial Management Experience; Court-Preferred Skills; Provisions for Law Enforcement Retirement Coverage; Physical & Medical Requirements as a Law Enforcement Officer; Background Investigation; and Conditions of Employment.

Application Process

Specific details on the application process are described in the full version of the Second Amended Vacancy Announcement. The judiciary's AO78 Application Form is available at the website.

All application documents must be complete and submitted by 5pm, Friday, February 19, 2016. Incomplete application documents will not be considered for review by the Court Selection Panel.

The most qualified candidates will be invited to a personal interview with the Court Selection Panel. Candidates selected for an interview will have to travel to the interview at their own expense.

The U.S. Probation Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to all applicants. The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of three (3) years of related experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisor experience required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE CUISINE
Minimum of three (3) years of relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(12) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years housekeeping supervisor experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self starter with the ability to clean rooms as required. Responsible for checking up to 70 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Ability to operate Rotary and Extraction equipment. Must be proficient in computer office software. Previous experience with Opera software is preferred. Must be able to stand for long excess hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) LEAD COOK
Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT
Minimum six (6) months of work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ROOM ATTENDANT – Part Time
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excess hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, February 8th, 2016.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

IN GOVT NON-PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN DEATH OF BABY

Senate: Proposed annual budget doesn't include payments for judgments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The law does not mandate the governor's proposed annual budget to include the payments of courts' judgments owed by the government, according to Senate legal counsel Jose A. Bermudes.

Bermudes said it is also equally true that the Planning and Budget Act does not provide that the courts' judgment payments be included in the government's annual budget.

The Senate issued in negative in response to Superior Court's question whether a CNMI annual budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced if it does not specifically name the judgments owed by the government.

Bermudes submitted on Friday in Superior Court the Senate's briefs on the annual budget-related issues after Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last December invited the CNMI Legislature, the Office of the Governor-Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Finance to submit briefs or declarations over the government's failure to pay a judgment of $35,000 that was entered in 2013 as a settlement of a wrongful death lawsuit.

Camacho expressed concern about the far reaching ramifications of the issues raised in the wrongful death lawsuit filed by couple Timothy Cruz and Jotonia B. Aguon, especially as the plaintiffs call into question issues related to the repeated non-payment of court-ordered judgments in the CNMI, as well as whether the 2016 budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced, which could result in a government shutdown of all non-essential government functions.

Cruz and Aguon are holding a judgment against the government in the amount of $35,000 as a settlement of their lawsuit that they filed in 2012 over the death of their child during delivery at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Cruz and Aguon, through counsel Michael Dotts, filed a motion for an order in aid of judgment that asked the court to direct the government to pay them the final judgment.

According to Dotts, the government has not ever made even a partial payment despite agreed to a settlement.

Dotts said with the Appropriation and Budget Act of 2016, the court has the power to aid Aguon and Cruz. He asserted, among other things, that the Act vests the governor with "reprogramming authority within the Executive Branch."

The Office of the Attorney General opposed the motion. Assistant attorney general David Lochabay asserted that the motion is not supported by any authority and should be denied on that ground alone.

Lochabay also asserted that a CNMI Supreme Court previous ruling forbids courts from directly or indirectly ordering payment of judgments for which the Legislature has not appropriated funds.

Camacho heard the motion last Nov. 17. The judge then invited the Legislature, the Office of Management and Budget, and Finance to file an amicus curiae brief.

Amicus curiae (Friend of the court) refers to a brief filed in court by an entity who is not a party to the case.

On the unconstitutionally unbalanced budget issue, Bermudes said the governor's proposed annual budget must contain, among many other things, a detailed estimate of anticipated financial resources to include revenues and Covenant funds, uncollected tax, previous year unobligated balances, grants, loans, and monies due the government.

In response to Camacho's other questions, Bermudes said an order in aid of judgment would not be the proper legal mechanism with which to rule that the 2016 budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced.

Bermudes said there is other mechanism for the plaintiff to seek payment of their judgment against the government, in light of the repeated failure of the legislature to appropriate for court ordered judgments.

The Senate counsel said the court ordering a payment of a judgment out of the $8,000 highlighted in the 2016 budget, or in the alternative ordering the governor to reprogram funds for the payment of these judgments, is not distinguishable from the NMI Supreme Court's ruling in the Marine Revitalization Corp. lawsuit against the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Bermudes said for the court to declare the 2016 budget unconstitutional and issues a stay order to allow the Legislature to pass a supplemental budget, would be in violation of Article 2 Section 1.

On the aid of judgment issue, Bermudes said to rule that the 2016 Budget Act is unconstitutionally unbalanced based on 7 CMC Section 4205, application for orders in aid of judgment, would be an improper mechanism.

Bermudes said nothing under Section 4205 even remotely suggests that it can be a mechanism to render a budget act unconstitutionally balanced.

"The provision is enacted specifically for the purpose of providing orders in aid of judgments, and not a mechanism to rule on the constitutionally of the government's annual budget," he said.

On any other mechanism issue, Bermudes said the 18th Legislature introduced an identical bill and was enacted into law as Public Law 18-38.

The 18th Legislature acknowledged that 17 judgments totaling over $27 million have not been paid.

Bermudes said based on the yearly decrease in revenues, the Legislature reasoned that to satisfy all the judgments pursuant to an appropriation item in a Fiscal year budget is not foreseeable.

As such, Bermudes said, the 18th Legislature sought a different mechanism to satisfy judgments by enacting Public Law 18-38, codified under Section 7207(b).

Bermudes said the plaintiff can use Section 7207(b) in negotiating the payment of the judgment.

In the alternative, he said the plaintiff can lobby the administration to include the judgment payment in the governor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

If this fails, Bermudes said, the lobbying should be done at the House of Representatives and the Senate.

He said the Legislature does have to follow the governor's proposed budget spending.

He said the Legislature is only obligated that the total spending amount does not exceed the total revenue sources identified in the governor's budget submission.

"It is up to the Legislature whether or not to include or exclude any appropriation for government judgments, subject to the governor's veto power and ultimately the legislative power to override the veto," Bermudes said.

With respect to the question whether it is distinguishable from Marine Revitalization Corp.'s case, Bermudes said if the $8,000 appropriated in the 2016 budget for judgment payment is available, the Superior Court can order the governor to pay the $8,000 to the plaintiff.

However, Bermudes said, in the event the $8,000 is no longer available, then the governor cannot follow the court's order.

Similarly, he pointed out, the court cannot order the governor to reprogram funds appropriated to the Executive Branch for its operations and activities even with the governor's 100 percent reprogramming authority.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Volunteers from the Commonwealth Advocacy for Recovery Efforts assist in cleaning up debris left by Typhoon Soudelor in one of the villages on Saipan.

'3 more months for Soudelor debris cleanup'

Staff from the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality will be leading the last three months of the removal of debris left by Typhoon Soudelor.

Commonwealth Advocacy for Recovery Efforts director Jenny Hegland said they continue to provide additional support as cleanup efforts resume today in the villages of Susupe and Oleai.

The site location is at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion and the schedule is from Feb. 1 to 13.

Hegland said CARE's volunteer weekly debris removal is every Saturday from 8:30am to 12noon. Gloves and other tools are always provided for all volunteers.

"As a community we are making good progress on the island-wide debris removal efforts now led by BECQ and the Mayor's Office. CARE continues to support debris removal as an important first step in rebuilding," Hegland said.

She added dates and schedule of cleanup for each village are subject to change on the actual time spent in each village.

CARE volunteers' Saturday cleanup, sorting, and debris removal are also weather -permitting.

After Susupe and Oleai, the removal schedule moves to As Lito to Fina Sisu from Feb. 15 to 27, then to Kannat Tabla to Chalan Kiya from Feb. 29 to March 12, and in Gualo Rai to Garapan from March 14 to 26.

From March 28 to April 9 Navy Hill, Puerto Rico and Lower Base are the scheduled areas for the cleanup, while from April 11 to 23 it will be the turn of Tanapag and Achugao villages.

San Roque and As Matuis is set from April 25 to May 7, while the Talofofo and Capital Hill area will be the last two villages scheduled from May 9 to 21. ***(Jon Perez)***

Tumon Bay Music Festival looking for participants

Calling all vocal and instrumental solos, duets, and ensembles in Guam and beyond!

It's the time of year for the region's largest music event—the 12th Tumon Bay Music Festival.

Events include the following:

■ Choral and hand bell festival - March 3 and 4

■ Solo and small ensemble festival - March 5

■ Pop concert "jazz, rock, and beyond" - March 6

■ Band and orchestra festival - March 7 and 8

■ Finale concert and award ceremony - March 12

This educationally enriched music event features instrument-specific seminars and lectures, school performance visits, and performance opportunities for musicians of all ages.

Individual singers and instrumentalists can also sign up for:

■ Festival massed choir

■ 2016 festival honor bands (for middle and high school students)

■ Tumon Bay international wind orchestra

Direct link to online applications: http://tbmfguam.weebly.com/apply-here2.html

For more information, please contact Mr. M. Landon Aydlett at 777-5337 or via e-mail at landonaydlett@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

February is National Parent Leadership Month

JON PEREZ
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, joins the staff of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Parents Anonymous CNMI for a group photo in last Thursday's proclamation signing declaring February as National Parent Leadership month.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed last Thursday a proclamation declaring February as Parent Leadership Month in time for the celebration of the 49th anniversary of Parents Anonymous.

Acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Walter Macaranas, Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian T. Sablan, staff of their respective offices, and parents from public and private schools witnessed the signing at the Governor's Office conference room.

The National Parent Leadership Month began in 2004 and it aims to recognize parents that went beyond their families in helping improve the community. Parents Anonymous has an office here in the CNMI under DYS' Parent Education Program.

Torres, who has five kids and another one on the way, said being a parent is a tough job especially for those who work. "That's why I always see to it that I spend time with my kids. Weekends are my special time with them."

He added that showing love and spending valuable time with your kids is free and would help them develop their personal skills. "The way you treat them will make a big different in their lives that will go a long way."

Dandan Middle School parent leader Jacob Lizama said giving your children attention and time to talk to them is important for them to succeed. Macaranas added that the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

Macaranas said they lined up various programs for the month-long celebration starting with a Parent Education Program Display at the DC-CA-Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito from Feb. 1 to 5, while an Early Childhood STEP Class is set at the Dandan Head Start starting on Feb. 10. The STEP Class is also scheduled on Feb. 16-17, 19, 23-24, and 26.

A Parent Education Program Presentation will be held in different schools on Feb. 9, 11, and 13, while organizers will be the guest speaker on the KKMP Radio Talk Show on Feb. 10. A Parent Education Program Display/Outreach is set on Feb. 11 at 6pm at the Pedro P Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

On Feb. 16 and 17, a Parent Education Program Display/Outreach will be held at the CHCC-Women, Infant and Children Program, while a Parent Development Workshop is set on Feb. 20 from 7:30am to 4:30pm with the venue to be announced.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Amendment No. 1

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ***Friday, March 25, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 25, 2016, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room located in Tatachog, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **ELPHIDIA B. CAMACHO** Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 15-0025** **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 9, 2016, at 1:30pm, a hearing will be held before Judge Camacho on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Luzviminda F. Arriola

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PEDRO C. ARRIOLA Deceased.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0194** **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** **Date: February 16, 2016 Time: 1:30 p.m.**

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE PEDRO C. ARRIOLA OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the hearing on **Luzviminda F. Arriola's** Petition for Letters of Administration and Appointment of Co-Administratices has been continued to **February 16, 2016,** at **1:30 p.m. Luzviminda F. Arriola** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Pedro C. Arriola, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition by Luzviminda F. Arriola, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **February 16, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this January, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

Melissa D. Somorang
P.O. Box 502342
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 234-1538

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF Melissa D. Somorang AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: AJ D. S. (1/19/04) WD.S. (9/14/05) Minor Children by Melissa D. Somorang Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0018 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Melissa D. Somorang, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 17th day of March, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

RUBY DLC. HOCOG
P.O. BOX 7926 SVRB
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL.: 285-3455

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF RUBY DLC. HOCOG AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: KDH – 10/02/2001 *(CHILD'S NAME (DOB)* MINOR CHILD) BY RUBY DLC. HOCOG PETITIONER	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0020 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by RUBY DLC. HOCOG, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 18th day of February, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Business

Malaysia prosecutor, fund will help in Swiss graft probe

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's top prosecutor said Saturday he will cooperate with Swiss authorities, whose investigation into an indebted Malaysian state investment fund indicated that $4 billion may have been misappropriated from Malaysian state-owned companies.

Switzerland's top prosecutor said he sought Malaysia's help after the investigation into 1MDB confirmed that some money was transferred into accounts held in Switzerland. The accounts were held by various former Malaysian public officials and both former and current public officials from the United Arab Emirates.

The Swiss office said in a statement Friday that criminal proceedings were opened last August against two former 1MDB officials and individuals unknown on suspicion of bribery of foreign public officials, misconduct in public office, money laundering and criminal mismanagement.

The $4 billion would have been earmarked for investment in economic and social development projects in Malaysia.

Prime Minister Najib Razak, who formed 1MDB in 2009, became embroiled in the scandal after documents leaked last year suggested some $700 million deposited into his accounts may have come from entities linked to 1MDB. Malaysia's Attorney General Mohamed Apandi Ali on Tuesday cleared Najib of any wrongdoing, saying it was a private donation from the Saudi royal family.

Apandi said in a statement Saturday that Malaysian investigations into alleged graft by 1MDB are still ongoing.

"My office intends to take all possible steps to follow up and collaborate with our Swiss counterparts, and we look forward to receiving the findings of their investigations and materials," he said. He said the materials will be reviewed along with Malaysia's own probe to determine the right course of action.

Obama wants $4B to help students learn computer science

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Saturday he will ask Congress for billions of dollars to help students learn computer science skills and prepare for jobs in a changing economy.

"In the new economy, computer science isn't an optional skill. It's a basic skill, right along with the three R's," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address.

Obama said only about one-quarter of K-12 schools offer computer science instruction, but that most parents want their children to develop analytical and coding skills.

"Today's auto mechanics aren't just sliding under cars to change the oil. They're working on machines that run on as many as 100 million lines of code," Obama said. "That's 100 times more than the Space Shuttle. Nurses are analyzing data and managing electronic health records. Machinists are writing computer programs."

The federal budget proposal for 2017 that Obama plans to send Congress on Feb. 9 will seek $4 billion for grants to states and $100 million for competitive grants for school districts over the next three years to teach computer science in elementary, middle and high schools, administration officials said.

Separately, the National Science Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service this year will start spending $135 million to train teachers over five years.

Obama said also wants governors, mayors, business leaders and tech entrepreneurs to become advocates for more widespread computer science education.

Brad Smith, president of Microsoft, said computer science education is an "economic and social imperative for the next generation of American students."

Paying bank interest to hold your deposits? What gives?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The idea sounds preposterous: Pay the bank to hold your money?

But the Bank of Japan on Friday joined European central banks by introducing negative interest rates - that is, charging, not paying, for deposits.

What gives?

WHAT EXACTLY DID THE BANK OF JAPAN DO?

The Japanese central bank surprised financial markets by announcing a 0.1 percent fee on some deposits by commercial banks. The central bank vowed to cut the interest rate further into negative territory "if judged as necessary."

WHY?

By charging banks for parking their money, the Bank of Japan—like the European Central Bank and others before it—hopes to discourage them from doing so. It wants those banks instead to make loans and thereby provide some stimulus to a fragile economy. The central bank's negative rates are also designed to lower other rates. In addition, negative rates tend to lower the value of a nation's currency, giving its exporters a price advantage in foreign markets.

WON'T BANKS JUST STICK THEIR MONEY UNDER A MATTRESS?

That's harder than you'd think. Michael Pearce, global economist at Capital Economics, notes that transporting and storing bills and coins is costly—equal to a 2 percent fee, he calculates. So it might make more sense to keep the money where it is.

"Negative rates have not yet triggered a 'flight to cash,'" Pearce wrote in a report Friday.

DO NEGATIVE RATES WORK?

"The verdict is quite mixed," says Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS.

The ECB rolled out negative rates in 2014. But European banks are still reluctant to lend, the economy of the 19-country eurozone is barely moving and inflation remains well below the central bank's 2 percent target. Behravesh says Europe's banks are still trying to recover from the financial crisis. Japan's banks are a bit further along in the recovery process, he says, and negative rates might prove more effective in getting them to lend more.

Switzerland's central bank had some success turning to negative rates in 2014 to rein in a rocketing currency that was hurting Swiss exporters, Pearce says.

Behravesh says Japan may be trying to drive the Japanese yen lower in advance of further declines in the currency of its trading rival China, which is trying to manage an economic slowdown.

"What they are hoping to do is buffer themselves from the troubles coming from China," Behravesh says.

Nation

Over 1M face loss of food aid over work requirements

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—More than 1 million low-income residents in 21 states could soon lose their government food stamps if they fail to meet work requirements that began kicking in this month.

AP

In this Jan. 29, 2016 photo, Terry Work stands outside a store that accepts food stamps in Bon Aqua, Tenn.

The rule change in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was triggered by the improving economy—specifically, falling unemployment. But it is raising concerns among the poor, social service providers and food pantry workers, who fear an influx of hungry people.

Recent experience in other states indicates that most of those affected will probably not meet the work requirements and will be cut off from food stamps.

For many people, "it means less food, less adequate nutrition. And over the span of time, that can certainly have an impact on health—and the health care system," said Dave Krepcho, president and chief executive of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida.

Advocates say some adults trying to find work face a host of obstacles, including criminal records, disabilities or lack of a driver's license.

The work-for-food requirements were first enacted under the 1996 welfare reform law signed by President Bill Clinton and sponsored by then-Rep. John Kasich, who is now Ohio's governor and a Republican candidate for president.

'Leave us alone'—people in Oregon town tired of standoff

BURNS, Ore. (AP)—People who live in Burns, the small high desert town near a wildlife refuge that has been occupied by an armed group for a month, say they are sick of the disruption to their lives.

"We just want to go back to the way we were," Barbara Ormond, who owns a quilt store in downtown Burns, said Saturday. "We want everyone to leave us alone."

Four people occupying an Oregon wildlife refuge held their position Saturday and posted live videos describing their situation and reiterating their demand that they be allowed to leave with being arrested. The jailed group's leader, Ammon Bundy, and 10 others who were arrested earlier in the week remained in custody. Through his lawyer, Bundy on Saturday again called on the remaining occupiers to leave.

The FBI has said it's trying to resolve the situation peacefully.

While the standoff that originated over federal land-use policies has led to filled-up hotels and restaurants as police, protesters and media have flocked to the area, locals say the conflict is upsetting and pitting neighbor against neighbor.

"It's tearing the community apart," said Bonnie Angleton, who owns a gift shop downtown. "I care about the people who live here."

Kate Marsh, an artist in town, said many residents work for the government, while others have their livelihoods depend on government agencies. "There is some dissension in the community," Marsh said.

Authorities say Bundy, the leader of the group that seized the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and others used the social media and other platforms to summon recruits to join their takeover.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 1 dead, 7 hurt in shooting, stabbing at Denver expo

DENVER (AP)—One person was fatally shot and seven others were injured in a shooting and stabbing at a motorcycle expo on Saturday, Denver police said. Police Chief Robert White told reporters that it was unclear what prompted the incident at the National Western Complex, where the Colorado Motorcycle Expo was being held this weekend. Police were interviewing several witnesses, including those being treated at the hospital, and were also talking to one person of interest, he said. Investigators believe there was an exchange of gunfire at about 1 p.m. In addition to the person who was shot and killed, three others were shot, another person was stabbed and three others suffered injuries from a fistfight, White said. A bystander told the *Denver Post* that the shooting happened near his leather goods company booth. Bob Cook said he heard two shots fired and saw people dive under tables. He said he didn't hear any arguments before the shooting.

Massive fire destroys Lexington stockyard, many businesses

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—A massive fire destroyed a 70-year-old beef cattle auction business in Lexington on Saturday, churning up a plume of thick, black smoke that darkened the skies for miles as the wind-whipped flames consumed several nearby businesses. No one was injured in the fire that destroyed seven acres of the stockyards operated by the Blue Grass Livestock Marketing Group. But Chief Operating Officer Jim Akers said he did not see how the 20 beef cattle in the facility could have survived. Firefighters were alerted to the fire at 2:20 p.m. and quickly called for backup as the smoke billowed through the streets near busy Leestown Road. Fire officials warned anyone living within a half mile of the fire to stay inside and turn off their heating and air conditioning units to keep the smoke out of their homes. At least 120 firefighters battled the blaze for several hours Saturday afternoon in a wooden structure that Interim Fire Chief Harold Hoskins compared to "a standing lumber yard."

Asia

China strongly condemns US for sending warship near island

AP

In this June 4, 2010, file photo, the USS Curtis Wilbur arrives at a naval base in Busan, South Korea, for South Korea-U.S. joint drills.

BEIJING (AP)—China strongly condemned the United States after a U.S. warship deliberately sailed near one of the Beijing-controlled islands in the hotly contested South China Sea to exercise freedom of navigation and challenge China's vast territorial claims.

The missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur sailed within 12 nautical miles (22 kilometers) of Triton Island in the Paracel chain "to challenge excessive maritime claims of parties that claim the Paracel Islands," without notifying the three claimants beforehand, Defense Department spokesman Mark Wright said Saturday in Washington..

China, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping claims in the Paracels and require prior notice from ships transiting what they consider their territorial waters. The latest operation was particularly aimed at China, which has increased tensions with the U.S. and its Southeast Asian neighbors by embarking on massive construction of man-made islands and airstrips in contested areas.

In October, another U.S. warship sailed in the nearby Spratly Islands near Subi Reef, where China has built one of seven artificial islands.

Wright said the attempts to restrict navigational rights by requiring prior notice are inconsistent with international law. U.S. officials said that such ship movements would be regular in the future.

China responded swiftly. Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun issued a statement saying the U.S. action "severely violated Chinese law, sabotaged the peace, security and good order of the waters, and undermined the region' s peace and stability," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Japan restarts nuclear reactor using plutonium-mixed fuel

TOKYO (AP)—Japan on Friday restarted a nuclear reactor that uses riskier plutonium-based MOX fuel, the first of that type to resume operations under stricter safety rules introduced after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Japan's large stockpile of plutonium has raised international nuclear security concerns, and the government has come up with the idea of burning it in reactors to reduce the amount.

The No. 3 reactor at Takahama nuclear plant in western Japan, operated by Kansai Electric Power Co., went back online Friday. Dozens of people protested outside the plant in Fukui prefecture, where preparations for a restart of another reactor, No. 4, are also underway.

Fukui has more than a dozen reactors, the biggest concentration in one prefecture, causing safety concerns for neighbors including Kyoto and Shiga, whose Lake Biwa is a major source of drinking water for western Japan.

Two reactors that use conventional uranium fuel were restarted last year in southern Japan.

Japan started burning MOX, a plutonium-uranium hybrid fuel, in some of its conventional reactors in 2009. Experts say conventional reactors can safely burn MOX for up to one-third of their fuel, but it emits more radiation and could interfere with control rods when they are needed to suppress the nuclear chain reaction.

Japan has enough plutonium, mostly from reprocessed spent fuel, to make 6,000 bombs.

Nearly five years since a massive earthquake and tsunami caused meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, about 100,000 people still cannot return to nearby areas. Workers at the plant continue to struggle with its decommissioning, which will take decades.

China braces for 2.9B trips during Lunar New Year

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese are packing train and bus stations as the peak travel season kicks into high gear this weekend with hundreds of millions of people going home for Spring Festival celebrations—or head for vacation destinations.

Chinese travelers are expected to make 2.9 billion trips during the 40-day period between Jan. 21 and March 3, with the majority of those trips falling in the weeks around the Feb. 8 Lunar New Year, the Ministry of Transport said.

"I have my parents back in my hometown and I must go back and have the family reunion," said Ma Xijie, a migrant worker from Sichuan province who was travelling back home by train with his son and wife.

"It's great to have the whole family sit down and enjoy a family dinner together. I have been working far from home with my kid for a whole year," he said.

At the Beijing railway station, student Ren Chongyuan from Shandong province said it was a bit easier to buy tickets this year, but he still had to book two months in advance.

This year's travel crush—considered the largest annual human migration—may be relatively less severe due to a lackluster economy.

In coastal Zhejiang province near Shanghai, officials expect a 4.4 percent drop in passenger traffic as jobs dry up and migrant laborers pack up early to head to their family homes in China's hinterlands well before the New Year.

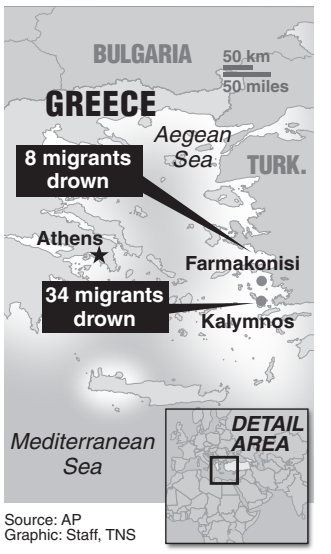
World

At least 37 migrants drown trying to reach Greece

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A boat carrying Syrians attempting the short sea journey from Turkey to Greece struck rocks and capsized at dawn on Saturday, causing at least 37 people to drown, among them several babies and young children.

Images of dead children on a beach on Saturday were another soul-searing reminder that Europe's migrant crisis keeps destroying lives and families by the day.

They recalled the photo of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi lying face down on a Turkish beach last year. His story put an intimate face on the Syrian refugee crisis for people across the world, prompting many to finally grapple with the magnitude of the suffering caused by the war in the Middle East and the treacherous journeys many risk seeking shelter in Europe.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

By contrast, the heartbreaking images Saturday met a muted response, perhaps a sign that many have grown weary of the unending reports about the suffering of migrants even though the number of people dying at sea is rising.

"January has been the deadliest month so far for drownings between Turkey and Greece," Peter Bouckaert, the emergencies director at Human Rights Watch, told The Associated Press in an email. "Almost every day, more drown on this dangerous journey."

"It is deeply disturbing that after all those solemn pledges when Aylan Kurdi drowned, these latest drownings were barely mentioned in the media," added Bouckaert, who played a crucial role in giving wide circulation on Twitter to the images of Kurdi last year. "We have chosen to look away."

Tima Kurdi , the Kurdi's aunt, said she is heartbroken to know that children continue to die as her nephew did.

Report counts some 2.3K journalists killed in past 25 years

BRUSSELS (AP)—In the last quarter century, at least 2,297 journalists and media staff have been killed for doing nothing more than trying to inform the world on war, revolution, crime and corruption. And killers continue to act with impunity, the International Federation of Journalists announced in a new report.

The annual total stood at 40 in the federation's first year of counting, 1990, but has not dipped under the 100-mark since 2010.

"The last ten years were the most dangerous," said IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger in an interview, with 2006 the worst year of all with 155 killed.

And despite vows of protection from as high as the United Nations, the IFJ said it produced the report "25 years of contribution towards safer journalism" to underscore a worsening climate of impunity which has helped killers get away with murder and turn journalists into soft targets.

"The IFJ estimates that only one of ten killings is investigated," the report said, with actual convictions lower still.

"That is the diplomatic issue. Let's stop the impunity that protects the killers," Bellanger said.

The 79-page report will be made public next week, but The Associated Press obtained a copy ahead of a debate Monday at the British Parliament on "deaths of professional and citizen journalists in conflict zones." The IFJ will also take the report to a major UNESCO meeting in Paris next Thursday devoted to the same issue.

"We bring this report to show to all that it really is time to do something about it," said Bellanger.

Last year stood out for the attacks on the Paris office of the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, where two Islamic extremists killed 12 people at the satirical newspaper's office. The IFJ's total tally of the year stood at 112.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thousands protest Italy plan to permit same-sex unions

ROME (AP)—Tens of thousands of people opposed to gay rights rallied Saturday in Rome's Circus Maximus against legislation that would permit civil unions for same-sex couples and grant them legal recognition as families. Massimo Gandolfini, organizer of Saturday's "Family Day" protest, told the crowd that the legislation now in the Senate needs to be defeated. "A man and a woman form a marriage," Gandolfini said. "The others are alchemy." The coalition government of Premier Matteo Renzi is pushing for the legislation granting civil unions, including the right of inheritance, to receive the pension of a deceased partner, or to make medical decisions about a partner in hospital. But the provision to permit homosexuals to adopt the biological children of their partner is the most hotly contested, even within the coalition. Cabinet ministers expressed dissent during the rally. Interior Minister Angelino Alfano sent his support to the protesters via a Twitter message. Environment Minister Gian Luca Galletti attended the protest, saying he supported the civil unions but not the so-called "step-child adoption" clause.

Turkish police recover painting resembling Picasso's work

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish police and media say police have recovered an oil painting that looks like a Picasso in a sting operation in Istanbul. The state-run Anadolu Agency said Saturday that police posed as buyers for the painting, detaining two suspects who tried to sell it for $8 million. Anadolu said the painting, which shows an abstract nude female figure brushing her hair, is an authentic work by Pablo Picasso stolen from a woman in New York. But a statement from Istanbul police said the painting hasn't been authenticated yet. The painting must still be sent to Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University to be examined, Anadolu reported. Turkish police have recovered paintings in similar operations in the past which turned out to be forgeries.

Health & Fitness

AP

This 2006 photo provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a female Aedes aegypti mosquito in the process of acquiring a blood meal from a human host.

Life at Zika epicenter a struggle for afflicted family

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and JENNY BARCHFIELD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIFE, Brazil (AP)—Around the fifth month of her pregnancy, Daniele Ferreira dos Santos fell ill with a high fever and angry red splotches on her skin.

She soon recovered.

But weeks later, when she went to the hospital for a prenatal exam, the news was horrific: The baby she was carrying likely had a severe brain injury. When Juan Pedro Campos dos Santos came into the world in December, the circumference of his head was just 26 centimeters, about 20 percent smaller than normal.

Santos was never diagnosed with Zika, but she blames the virus for her son's defect and for the terrible toll it has taken on her life. Living in Recife in the northeastern state of Pernambuco, she is at the epicenter of the Zika outbreak, and Pedro's is among 3,400 suspected cases of microcephaly that may be connected to the virus, though no link has yet been proven.

Originally from Africa, Zika spread to Asia and was first registered in Brazil in the middle of last year, spreading like wildfire through the northeast thanks in part to the region's widespread poverty, equatorial heat and chronic infestations of the Aedes aegypti mosquito, which also spreads dengue fever and chikungunya.

"It's the proverbial perfect storm," said Dr. Albert Ko, a professor of epidemiology with the Yale School of Public Health, adding the region was likely at least one of the initial points of entry for the disease—which researchers theorize may have been introduced to Brazil by tourists visiting the country during the 2014 World Cup or an international canoeing event the same year.

"It may have been one of many introductions, but this is the one that took off," said Ko. "In Brazil, infestation rates (of the mosquito) are highest in the northeast because of climactic reasons and socio-economic reasons, so it makes sense that ... it really took off there."

Mosquitoes have long been an inescapable part of the lives of the Santos family and their neighbors in a slum in Recife's Apipucos neighborhood, where raw sewage flows in ditches, rain water from the frequent downpours in this equatorial city accumulates in fetid puddles, and the shores of a nearby pond are dotted with trash. Each soda bottle, yoghurt container and margarine tub provides an ideal breeding ground for Aedes.

"The mosquito is in all Recife. If I didn't get it here, I got it at the place I work," said Santos, a receptionist. "We all know that the risk (of contracting a mosquito-borne illness) is high."

But it wasn't always this way. Brazil once succeeded in eliminating the Aedes, which is well adapted to humans, lives within people's homes and can breed in just a bottle cap of stagnant water. Massive eradication efforts in the 1940s and 1950s allowed the country to be declared free of the mosquito in 1958, but over the decades the insect returned, slowly encroaching from neighboring countries and finding fertile breeding ground in Brazil's sprawling, unplanned cities, with their limited potable water systems and garbage collection.

"Because of irregular water distribution, many people, especially in poorer areas collect water in tanks ... creating ideal breeding grounds for the mosquitoes," said Dr. Ceuci Nunes, an infectologist at the Couto Maia Hospital in the northeastern city of Salvador. "The same goes with trash, which often goes uncollected."

Nunes also said regional officials' laissez-faire attitude toward eradication also helped fan the mosquito's proliferation, which also resulted in as record numbers of dengue cases in recent years.

"There has been a lot of carelessness combating the mosquito," she said, adding that many municipalities simply "failed to adopt adequate mosquito-fighting measures."

In the face of the spiraling public health crisis, President Dilma Rousseff has declared war on Aedes, with the government promising to deploy some 220,000 members of the Armed Forces to go door-to-door to help educate the population about how to prevent the mosquito's spread.

Still, officials on the ground in the epicenter of the crisis worry Rousseff's declaration might be hollow.

Recife's health secretary, Jailson Correia, an infectologist, said the city asked the federal government for $ 7 million for Aedes eradication programs back in November, as the link between Zika and microcephaly was emerging. The payout only came in January, he said, and it was only $300,000.

Area researchers are also exploring whether another type of mosquito endemic to Brazil's northeast could also be a Zika carrier, and if so, whether it too may somehow lead to microcephaly. The carrier of West Nile virus, the Culex quinquefasciatus mosquito, is up to 20 times more prevalent in the region than Aedes, which could help explain the intensity of the Zika outbreak there.

If the hypothesis proves true, staunching Zika's spread could prove more difficult than previously thought, said Constancia Ayres, a researcher with the Fiocruz Institute in Recife.

"If that's the case, the problem is more complex. Only a proper sanitation system would help," she said. "Culex reproduces in dirty waters, unlike Aedes."

For the moment, the best way to avoid infection remains avoiding mosquito bites - a tall order in Recife, where worry over Zika's effects has sparked widespread runs on mosquito repellents. And in the few spots where it's still available, frenetic demand has helped push the price for what was already a costly product into the stratosphere. In Recife's airport, a small bottle was running for $8 - a fortune in a region where the per capita household income is around $160 per month, according to the IBGE statistics agency.

The Brazilian government is now pledging to hand out repellent to low-income pregnant women, but the gesture is cold comfort to new mother Santos.

Asked whether she had any repellent, she just laughed. She has little reason to laugh these days.

Microcephaly, in which infants are born with unusually small heads, and can sometimes suffer mental retardation or a host of serious health and developmental problems.

Almost from birth, Pedro cried ceaselessly, as do many babies with microcephaly. He stops only the few hours when he's asleep. During those precious hours, Santos keeps her fingers close to his chest so he has something of her to grab onto. Without that, he pinches himself awake with his tiny fingers.

Her husband was annoyed by the baby's constant fussing, which distracted him from his television show, she said. He was also deeply chagrinned to have a son born imperfectly.

So a few weeks after Pedro came home, his father left. He took with him the flat-screen TV that was the centerpiece of their tiny home.

Pregnant women advised to avoid Zika virus areas

The mosquito-borne Zika virus is linked to the recent increase in microcephaly in South America. Microcephaly cases in Brazil have jumped from fewer than 150 cases in 2014 to close to 4,000 since October of last year.

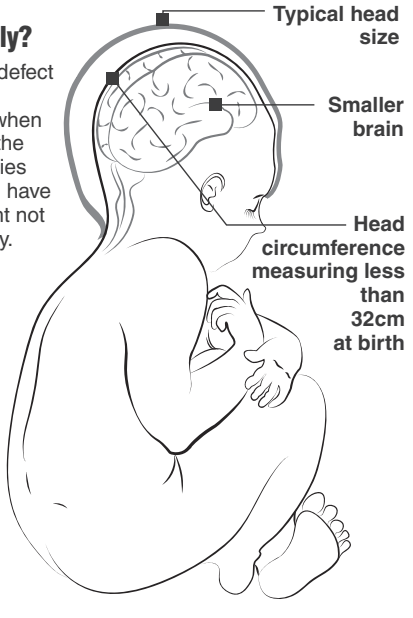
What is microcephaly?

Microcephaly is a birth defect where a baby's head is smaller than expected when compared to babies of the same sex and age. Babies with microcephaly often have smaller brains that might not have developed properly.

Other problems

Babies with microcephaly can have a range of other problems, depending on how severe their microcephaly is. Microcephaly has been linked with the following problems:

- Seizures
- Hearing loss
- Vision problems
- Developmental delay, such as problems with speech or other developmental milestones (like sitting, standing, and walking)
- Intellectual disability (decreased ability to learn and function in daily life)
- Feeding problems, such as difficulty swallowing
- Problems with movement and balance



Source: AP, BBC, CDC
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

'Spotlight' wins best ensemble at not-so-white SAG Awards

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

AP

The cast of "Spotlight," from left, Billy Crudup, Brian d'Arcy James, Mark Ruffalo, Rachel McAdams, John Slattery, Michael Keaton and Liev Schreiber pose in the press room with the award for outstanding cast in a motion picture for "Spotlight" at the 22nd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium & Expo Hall on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, in Los Angeles.

The Screen Actors Guild Awards were not so white.

While the Academy Awards remain enveloped in a crisis over the diversity of its nominees, the 22nd annual SAG Awards on Saturday presented a stark antidote to the rancor that has overwhelmed Hollywood's awards season. Awards were handed out to Queen Latifah, Uzo Aduba, Viola Davis and Idris Elba (twice), as the actors guild cast a loud vote in favor of diversity on big and small screens.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to diverse TV," said Elba in his third trip on stage as a presenter. His first two were to accept awards for his supporting performance in the Netflix child soldier drama "Beasts of No Nation" and for his lead performance in the BBC miniseries "Luther."

The night's top honor, best ensemble in a film, went to the newspaper drama "Spotlight," which came into Saturday badly in need of some momentum. The ensemble award had seemingly come down to "Spotlight" or—the film with the wind at its back—Adam McKay's high finance tale "The Big Short," which last week took the Producers Guild's top award.

"No way," said Mark Ruffalo, one of the film's stars.

He praised the writer-director Tom McCarthy and co-writer Josh Singer for their purposeful accuracy in penning the journalistic procedural about the Boston Globe's reporting on sexual abuse by Catholic priests. The two, he said, "took every single opportunity to tell the truth. They didn't take any cheap way. It was always the truth."

Elba made no direct reference to the crisis that has swept through Hollywood in the last two weeks—which might have been far less severe had he been nominated by the Academy Awards, as many expected. But it was on the minds and tongues of seemingly everyone in Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium on Saturday night.

Accepting the most outstanding ensemble award, comedy series, for "Orange Is the New Black," co-star Laura Prepon gestured to the cast of the prison comedy standing behind her.

"Look at this stage," said Prepon at Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium. "This is what we talk about when we talk about diversity."

Individual actor SAG winners the last three years have exactly corresponded with eventual Oscar winners, which meant that SAG winners Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Revenant"), Brie Larson ("Room") and Alicia Vikander ("The Danish Girl") all appear to have cemented their status as favorites. Each won, as expected.

"For any young actors out there, I encourage you to watch the history of cinema," said DiCaprio, who is expected to land his first Oscar after four previous nominations. "As the history of cinema unfolds, you realize that we all stand on the shoulders of giants."

But supporting actor will differ this year. The category's perceived favorite is Sylvester Stallone for the Rocky sequel "Creed." Stallone, though, wasn't nominated by the screen actors.

Actors make up the largest branch of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which is why the SAG Awards are a closely watched harbinger of the Oscars. But the Screen Actors Guild is massive by comparison: some 160,000 members to the academy's 6,000-plus. Voting for the SAG Awards, which concluded Friday, also overlapped with the widespread debate over the industry's inclusiveness that followed Academy Awards nominations that resurrected the "OscarsSoWhite" backlash of last year.

Latifah gave one of the evening's most stirring speeches while accepting the award for most outstanding female performance in a TV movie or miniseries for HBO's Bessie Smith tale "Bessie."

"I hope that anyone out there who does not come in the package that people say you should, keep fighting for it," said Latifah. "Flip those rocks over. Keep pushing, keep turning, you can do it. You build your own boxes, not people. So knock that thing away and do you!"

Backstage, Latifah said diversity was good business: "Hopefully our business will continue to supply the demand that people are asking for. The people want it. Give it to the people."

Aduba, accepting her second straight SAG Award for best actress in a comedy in "Orange Is the New Black," didn't address the topic straight on. But she praised creator Jenji Kohan for making "a show that reflects and represents so many people."

For the third time, "Downton Abbey" won best ensemble in a drama series. Best actor in a TV comedy went to Jeffery Tambor for the acclaimed Amazon series "Transparent." Kevin Spacey won his second SAG Award for "House of Cards" - another win for Netflix on the night.

The great comedian Carol Burnett accepted the SAG lifetime achievement award from presenters Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. Recalling the uphill battle she faced, Burnett remembered being warned that "comedy variety is a man's game." She then dramatically shook her head and mouthed: "No."

Carol Burnett accepts Life Achievement honors at SAG Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Carol Burnett started making her own variety show when she was just a kid. She'd go to the movies every week with her grandmother, then would act out the scenes with her friends when she got home.

But when Burnett first wanted to bring her musical variety show to TV, she was told that such programs were strictly the purview of men.

"The network didn't want me to do it," she said, remembering being told that "comedy-variety is a man's game."

But Burnett changed the rules. She accepted a lifetime achievement award Saturday from the Screen Actors Guild for her six decades on screen, including her groundbreaking namesake variety show, which ran for 11 years. Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, who presented Burnett with the honors, credited her with helping to raise them.

Poehler said their moms taught them 90 percent of what they needed to know - "the other 10 percent was Carol."

Burnett talked about how seeing all those movies with her grandmother shaped her sensibilities and career aspirations. She thanked her many colleagues on both sides of the camera.

"I was able to do what I did because of what they brought to the table," she said. "Not only their talents, but their love."

Burnett left the stage with her signature farewell, saying, "I'm so glad we had this time together" as she tugged on her ear.

Talking with reporters backstage, the 82-year-old entertainer said she longs for the sitcoms of old, like "MASH," ''Mary Tyler Moore" and "All in the Family."

"It was all clever and it holds up today," she said. "There was no pandering to base instincts... Some of the sitcoms I see make me feel like they might be being written by teenage boys in the locker room. I'd like to see cleverness come back."

But Burnett said she's delighted by the number of women in comedy - not only those on camera, but women writing and running their own shows.

"It's a beautiful way things have changed," she said. "And I think they're going to get better."

SIDEBAR

Complete list of winners at 22nd annual SAG Awards

A complete list of winners at Saturday's 22nd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles:

MOVIES:

Actor: Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Revenant"
Actress: Brie Larson, "Room"
Supporting actor: Idris Elba, "Beasts of No Nation"
Supporting actress: Alicia Vikander, "The Danish Girl"
Cast: "Spotlight"
Stunt ensemble: "Mad Max: Fury Road"

TELEVISION:

Actor in a comedy series: Jeffrey Tambor, "Transparent"
Actress in a comedy series: Uzo Aduba, "Orange is the New Black"
Comedy series cast: "Orange is the New Black"
Actor in a movie or miniseries: Idris Elba, "Luther"
Actress in a movie or miniseries: Queen Latifah, "Bessie"
Drama series cast: "Downton Abbey"
Actor in a drama series: Kevin Spacey, "House of Cards"
Actress in a drama series: Viola Davis, "How to Get Away With Murder"
Stunt ensemble: "Game of Thrones"

Quotes from Saturday's Screen Actors Guild Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Notable quotes from the Screen Actors Guild Awards, presented Saturday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles:

■ "I play Maura Pfefferman. She's very entitled and she has a lot of money. I would like to dedicate this award to the non-Maura Pfeffermans, who don't have a lot of cash for their operations, for their medicine, for their freedom."—Jeffrey Tambor, winner for actor in a TV comedy series for "Transparent."

■ "Look at this stage. This is what we talk about when we talk about diversity."—Laura Prepon, accepting the TV comedy ensemble award on behalf of the 34-member cast of "Orange is the New Black."

■ "Acting is not in a bubble—that magic only happens between acting companions."—Alicia Vikander, supporting actress winner for "The Danish Girl."

■ "It's amazing to see a group of women together in any media situation who aren't talking about how big their butts are."—"Orange is the New Black" star Lea DeLaria on the red carpet.

■ "Always take a nap at lunch."—Lead actress winner Brie Larson on the best advice she ever received.

■ "I would first like to thank our creator—no, not that one. The one grounded here on earth."—Kevin Spacey, winner for TV actors in a drama, expressing gratitude toward "House of Cards" creator Beau Willimon.

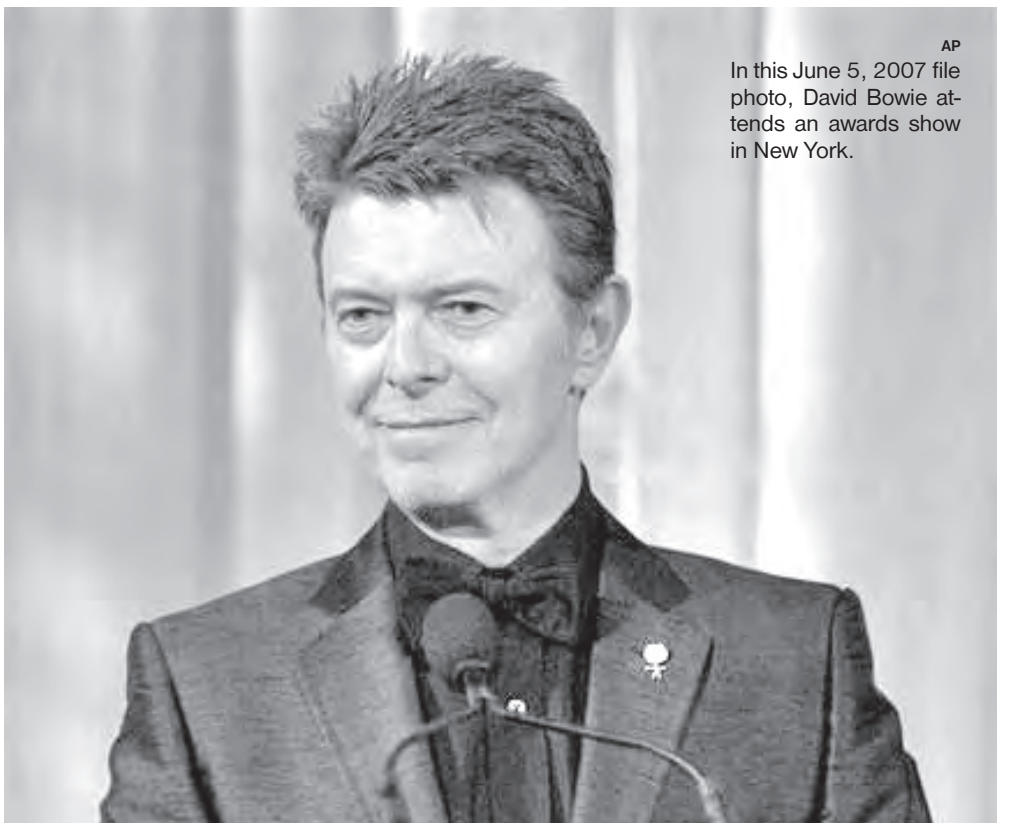
■ "Please continue to have some damn sense. Do what's right for the people. And climate change is a real thing."—Queen Latifah, winner for her role in "Bessie," on what she'd tell the next U.S. president.

David Bowie wanted ashes scattered in Bali

NEW YORK (AP)—Rock legend David Bowie wanted his ashes scattered in Bali "in accordance with the Buddhist rituals," and he left most of his estate to his two children and his widow, the supermodel Iman, according to his will filed Friday in Manhattan.

The 20-page document, filed under his legal name David Robert Jones, said the estate was worth about $100 million, but didn't break down the finances.

The "Fame" singer left his SoHo home he shared with Iman to her, and half of the rest of his worth. His son Duncan Jones from a previous marriage received 25 percent and his daughter Alexandria also received 25 percent as well as his Ulster County mountain home. Bowie left $2 million to his longtime personal assistant Corinne Schwab and left her shares he owned in a company called Oppossum Inc. He left $1 million to Marion Skene, Alexandria's nanny.



AP

In this June 5, 2007 file photo, David Bowie attends an awards show in New York.

The chameleon-like star transformed the sound—and the look—of rock with his audacious creativity and his sexually ambiguous makeup and costumes. His hits included "Space Oddity," ''Golden Years," ''Heroes" and "Let's Dance." He had cancer about 18 months before he died Jan. 10. He was 69.

Bowie prepared the will in 2004. He said if cremation in the Indonesian island was "not practical" then he wanted his remains cremated and his ashes scattered there still. According to the death certificate, filed with the will, his body was cremated Jan. 12 in New Jersey.

Long before alter egos and wild outfits became commonplace in pop, Bowie turned the music world upside down with the release of the 1972 album, "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars," which introduced one of music's most famous personas. "Ziggy Stardust" was a concept album that imagined a rock star from outer space trying to make his way in the music world.

Bowie re-imagined himself over and over again with personas like the "Thin White Duke" and "Aladdin Sane." Two weeks ago, his new album "Blackstar" was released. It topped the U.S. iTunes albums chart. An off-Broadway musical created by Bowie called "Lazarus" is currently playing, and stars Michael C. Hall.

Beyond Bowie, other notables who left distinctive requests

NEW YORK (AP)—David Bowie's wish to have his ashes scattered in a Buddhist ritual in Bali is the latest in a series of distinctive provisions in celebrities' wills. Surprising specifics, and curiosity about them, go back at least as far as Shakespeare's bequest to his wife of his "second-best bed." Here's a look at some other luminaries whose final instructions had uncommon features.

A MODEST REQUEST

As Benjamin Franklin parceled out property ranging from land to printing materials to books in his will, he left his daughter a diamond-encrusted miniature portrait of France's Louis XVI, a gift from the king. But it came with a request that she not make the stones into jewelry "and thereby introduce or countenance the expensive, vain and useless fashion of wearing jewels in this country." Franklin's enthusiasm for the new nation and his fellow founders was also reflected in a bequest of a gold-tipped walking stick to a man he called a "friend of mankind": George Washington. Franklin died in 1790.

A WILL, AND A WON'T

Illusionist Harry Houdini was famed for his suspenseful escapes, and he evidently expected death would have its own trapdoor: He arranged with his wife a secret code to be used to communicate with her from beyond the grave. His widow, Beatrice (also known as Bess), duly tried to connect with his spirit at séances on the anniversary of his Halloween 1926 death. She gave up after a decade: "Ten years is long enough to wait for any man," she later explained. When she died in 1943, her own will declared she'd never believed in spirit communication and specified that any service be devoid of "spiritualist creed or belief."

HAVE DINNER ON ME

Choreographer and director Bob Fosse left a special thank-you to 66 of his friends in the arts: $378.79 apiece to "go out and have dinner on me." The beneficiaries—who included actors Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange, playwright Neil Simon and novelist E.L. Doctorow—"all have, at one time or another during my life, been very kind to me," Fosse explained in his will. The director and choreographer of "Sweet Charity," ''Chicago" and "All That Jazz" died in 1987.

BEQUEST TROUBLE

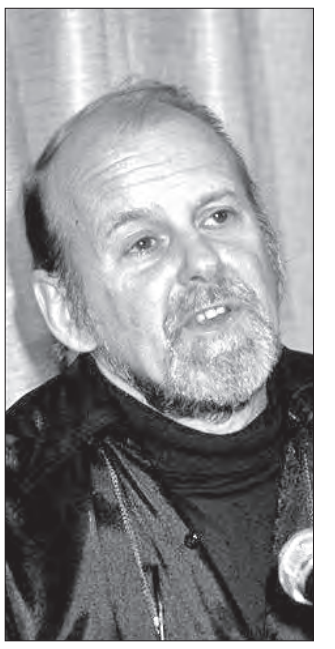
Hotel tycoon, convicted tax evader and "Queen of Mean" Leona Helmsley earned new notoriety after her 2007 death, when the public learned that her will left $12 million to her dog, a Maltese named Trouble. A judge eventually trimmed the bequest to $2 million. Trouble went on to live in Florida until her own death in 2011.

AD OUT

The Beastie Boys' Adam "MCA" Yauch rapped during his life that he wouldn't "sell my songs for no TV ad," and his will sought to make sure that pledge survived him. It specified that his music, image and name couldn't be used for advertising. Yauch, who died in 2012, was a founding member of the groundbreaking hip-hop group behind such hits as "No Sleep Till Brooklyn" and "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (To Party!)"

CHILDREN'S CULTURE

Philip Seymour Hoffman wanted to provide for his children not only financially but culturally—and to him, that meant living in Manhattan, Chicago or San Francisco. The Oscar-winning actor's will asked that his offspring be brought up in those locales or at least visit them twice or more each year, to "be exposed to the culture, arts and architecture that such cities offer." The star of "Capote," ''Doubt" and "The Master" died in 2014.



AP

In this 1980 file photo, director/choreographer Bob Fosse apears during a news conference at the Cannes Film Festival, at Cannes, France, where the American entry "All That Jazz" will be seen.

Gay father must find way to share son's parenting

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Steve" is in his mid-20s and became a father a few months ago. He's happy and excited about it, and he's good with the baby. He has been living with the mother, "Nina," who is a few years older, for a while now. Nina is also a friend of mine, and this is her second child.

My problem is that Steve told me some time before his son was born that he thinks he is gay. He wants to wait until Nina recovers from the pregnancy and finds a job before he tells her. I know he intends on being as big a part of the child's life as possible.

As much as I don't want Nina to be a single mother twice over, it doesn't seem good for her, Steve or the children to stay in a sham relationship. How can he break the news to her in a way that won't jeopardize his chance to be a father to his son?

CONCERNED IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR CONCERNED: This will have to be handled delicately because Nina may be clueless about Steve's sexual orientation. Expect her to be hurt and furious when she gets the news. It was reckless of Steve to have had unprotected sex with Nina under these circumstances.

That said, gay men can be great parents, and the focus should be on successful co-parenting of the child. If Steve were straight and found another woman, or fell out of love with Nina, it would affect the relationship in much the same way as his realization that he is gay. In either of those scenarios, the baby must be raised with love and consistency, whether the parents are coupled or not.

Steve's moral responsibility to his son will last forever. Gay or straight, Steve will always be that child's father. His financial responsibility will last until the boy is no longer a minor. If your friend encounters trouble achieving a workable solution with Nina regarding co-parenting, he should contact lambdalegal.org. Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT people.

DEAR ABBY: I am dating an awesome man who happens to be married. He and his wife have been separated for 10 years and they still talk to each other, but they are not living together.

"Mr. Right" is retired from the military and says they are still married because of her health issues and the fact that she can't afford health care on her own. Should we continue to see each other?

HIS HONEY IN HOUSTON

DEAR HONEY: If you are satisfied with the relationship, enjoy it for what it is. But if you aspire to anything more, this man is not in a position to give it to you. (Instead of referring to him as "Mr. Right," it might be more accurate to call him "Mr. Right for Now.")

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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By Bill Waterson

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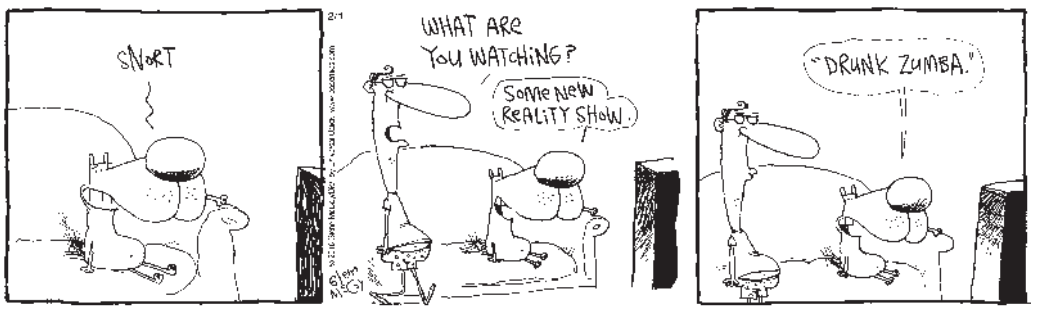
By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
MISTER FISHNOGGIN. IT'S SO FUNNY.
WHAT'S MISTER FISHNOGGIN?
SERIOUSLY?? HE'S A HUGE YOUTUBE STAR!
HE PLAYS VIDEO GAMES AND TALKS IN A SQUEAKY VOICE AND HITS HIMSELF WITH A DEAD FISH.
HOW... UM... CHARMING.
RIGHT? HE'S KIND OF THE VOICE OF MY GENERATION.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

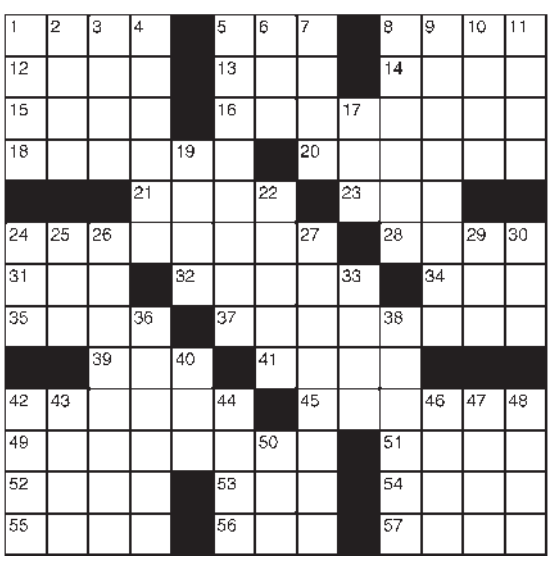
1 Barn storage area
5 Stetson, e.g.
8 Ticket receipt
12 In — (lined up)
13 Horatian work
14 Pop flavor
15 Garr of "Tootsie"
16 Seasonal winds of Asia
18 Come out
20 Soda shop order
21 Mandolin's kin
23 Singer Tormé
24 Macabre beings
28 Barking critter
31 Year in Madrid
32 Jazzy Vaughan
34 Have debts
35 Hunger reminder
37 Dull speaker's delivery
39 Bro or sis
41 Easter bloom
42 Shorthand pros
45 Toothpaste target
49 Landlocked Asian nation
51 Woody Guthrie's son
52 Gaelic
53 Bruins legend
54 Pen tips
55 Watchful one
56 Remit
57 Throw

DOWN

1 Overdue
2 Utah city
3 Golfer's cry
4 Does baton tricks
5 Red Sox, at Fenway
6 Hubbub
7 Till bills
8 Tea biscuits
9 "Ta-ta!"
10 Arm bone
11 Pedestal
17 Bottom line
19 Courage
22 Flynn of film
24 Atlas page
25 — tear (raging)
26 "Baloney!"
27 Hygienic
29 Plant bristle
30 Author Harper
33 Spanish greeting
36 Type of ale or beer
38 Despot
40 Scary cry
42 Hook's helper
43 Whig rival
44 Sty chow
46 Half a sextet
47 Priests' garments
48 Colonial seamstress
50 Roth svgs. plan

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 2 - 1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Harry Styles, 22; Ronda Rousey, 29; Big Boi, 41; Michael C. Hall, 45.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind, share your thoughts and give everyone the same freedom you expect in return. You can coast along and reach your goals if you avoid making unrealistic promises. Do things for yourself and make each move count. The less you expect from others, the better. An independent attitude will bring the highest returns. Your numbers are 8, 12, 23, 29, 35, 38, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Re-evaluate your current position. If you don't feel satisfied with your accomplishments, consider picking up more qualifications to help you follow a path suitable to your personality. Adapt your resume to fit the direction you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): An unexpected opportunity will take you on an exciting new journey. Let your mind mull over the possibilities. A meeting will be informative. Romance is on the rise, and sharing your adventure with someone special will improve your relationship. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't slow down or give anyone the chance to cause concern, uncertainty or confusion in your life. Stay on track and bring about the necessary changes in a disciplined manner. You can make a difference if you try. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Venture down different cultural or philosophic paths and see what life has to offer. Your interest will bring you close to someone who will motivate you to get back to the people and things you enjoy most in life. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Problems at home will escalate if you don't find a workable solution quickly. Do whatever it takes to appease someone who has the potential to make your life miserable. An unexpected professional change will help stabilize your future. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Participate in events that will help you show off your skills, or offer a service that can bring in extra cash. A partnership will take an interesting turn due to a conversation with someone you want to share your ideas with. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Accept the inevitable and keep moving forward. Don't let anyone stand in the way of your professional progress. Deal with issues involving home, insurance or medical matters. Offer affection, not complaints when dealing with friends and family. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Travel or getting together with someone you can learn from will help you get ahead. Express your thoughts and make unusual changes at home that will enable you to pursue a creative idea. Romance is highlighted. Discuss personal plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep to yourself and refrain from sharing your plans. Base your decisions on what you know, not what someone tells you. False information and taking things for granted can be expected if you are too friendly. Stay calm and watchful. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put your plans into motion. You stand to gain personally and professionally if you are proactive. A relationship with someone you love will encourage you to invest in a brighter future. Home improvements can be made. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let emotions or anger take over. Make every comment count. Be diligent about the information you gather. Make personal changes that will encourage others to look up to you. Discipline will bring about positive self-improvements. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your generosity will help to raise your profile among your colleagues. What you offer will bring financial benefits and emotional satisfaction for your time and efforts. A partnership looks promising, and a romantic plan will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, relentless, determined and complex. You are dedicated and loyal. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7		9		6	8		1	
		6		4				7
5	2				7			
			7			2		3
4	1						5	6
3		5			4			
			9				2	4
8				3		1		
	4		8	5		3		9

Difficulty Level ★ 2/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	2	4	1	7	3	8	5
1	5	7	3	8	6	2	9	4
4	3	8	2	5	9	7	1	6
5	8	3	7	6	2	1	4	9
6	7	4	8	9	1	5	2	3
2	9	1	5	3	4	8	6	7
7	1	9	6	2	5	4	3	8
3	4	6	1	7	8	9	5	2
8	2	5	9	4	3	6	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

AMETHYST STONES Solution: 8 letters

S	Q	H	S	F	E	R	A	R	A	C	I	R	F	A
I	U	C	A	S	E	D	O	E	G	I	N	D	I	A
A	A	O	G	V	E	L	J	E	W	E	L	R	Y	G
R	R	O	I	E	O	R	F	A	C	E	T	E	L	R
E	T	R	T	C	M	L	E	E	B	S	A	A	A	A
G	Z	B	R	B	E	S	C	H	U	R	D	M	R	N
S	V	V	A	R	K	R	T	A	P	R	A	S	E	I
A	I	N	A	C	U	U	P	O	N	S	N	Z	N	T
N	O	C	O	L	P	S	R	I	N	I	A	T	I	E
I	L	R	S	M	U	E	S	U	M	E	C	A	M	L
M	E	Y	E	U	R	E	A	I	G	E	R	R	I	E
P	Ⓣ	S	N	W	P	E	E	D	A	U	S	A	N	C
O	Ⓤ	T	O	A	L	A	N	I	D	R	A	C	E	A
R	Ⓒ	A	T	R	E	D	N	E	V	A	L	Y	S	R
C	A	L	I	L	A	N	O	G	A	X	E	H	Y	B

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Africa, Artigas, Austria, Bracelet, Brazil, Brooch, Canada, Carat, Cardinal, Color, Crop, Crystal, Cut, Deep, Dreams, Facet, Gemstone, Geodes, Granite, Hexagonal, India, Ion, Jewelry, Lavender, Lilac, Minas Gerais, Mineral, Mines, Museums, Purple, Quartz, Rare, Raw, Rocks, Russia, Semiprecious, Spheres, Tones, Uruguay, Value, Violet, Volcanic

Last Thursday's Answer: Pin It

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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(1) Building & Ground Maintenance Repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau Estates at 483-9351.

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Knowledgeable of principles and methods of Embroidery. Multi tasking. Can work on longer hours. Good eyesight. Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com.

EMPLOYMENT

2-H.E. Operator $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-9796. Kimco Ent. Inc.

4-Electrician $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

2-Plumber $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

3-Carpenters $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

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MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunnova

Energy Solution Advisor (Full-time and Part-time)

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest growing industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.

The Energy Solution Advisor will be responsible for identifying potential customers, answering their questions, and arranging customer consultations in their homes showing the customer how they can become part of the solution of cleaning our planet up while saving money on energy and have more of that income in their pocket and not the utilities pocket.

Key Responsibilities
- Speaking with customers about Micronesia Renewable Energy and our partner SUNNOVA's clean energy solutions
- Driving the creation of leads to meet personal and team sales goals
- Collaborating with Outside Solar Sales Consultants to confirm in-home appointments
- Setting up Micronesia Renewable Energy displays and collateral
- Hosting and conducting seminars and events for 20 or more people

Qualifications
- 2 years prior experience in a quota-driven sales
- Prior experience generating customer leads
- Proficient with Excel and MS Outlook (+CRM tool preferred)
- Slightly obsessive about providing a great customer experience, in all the right ways
- High energy, even higher integrity
- Articulate with excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Must be flexible working weekend, evening and holidays
- Min 18 years of age with a high school degree, recent college grads preferred
- Must have a valid state driver's license and clean driving record
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving, and drug screen

Email resumes to Lara at lozaki@micronesiarenewableenergy.com or mail to P.O. Box 7810 Tamuning, Guam 96931

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunnova

Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest growing industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.

The Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician will install residential grid-tied and off grid Solar PV systems. In this position, the PV Installer will provide support to the crew lead of the installation team, communicate job status data to the operations management, and ensure the completion of installation of all solar arrays/systems.

Key Responsibilities
- Pulling inventory for each installation job
- Pre-assemble job components in the warehouse
- Layout and assembly of solar modules / array and mounting hardware
- Mechanical/structural mounting of racking, modules and electrical equipment
- Electrical wiring of solar array/system (AC and DC)

Qualifications
- 1 year of roof work, general construction, or electrical required. Previous solar experience strongly preferred.
- Must be able to lift 50lbs, ability to work in extreme environments (example: heat, sun, etc)
- Must be willing and able to climb ladders, stairs, work on rooftops and able to work on your feet for long periods of time
- Basic computer skills including familiarity with Microsoft Office programs
- High school diploma or GED required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and clean driving record

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MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunnova

Solar Energy Contracts Administrator

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest growing industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.

The Solar Energy Contracts Administrator will work in conjunction with our operations and sales group. This individual will be responsible for the permitting, interconnection and administrative process of all residential solar systems installations.

Key Responsibilities
- Supervise the entire project flow process from the initial contract signing through the construction of the project
- Supervise the paperwork and permitting process of various residential solar installations
- Produce and submit documentation such as permits, and interconnection agreements

Qualifications
- Have strong project contracts administrative experience
- 1 to 3 years of construction administration experience
- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Must be self-motivated and goal orientated
- Completely tech savvy including experience in CRM programs, and Microsoft Office.
- A self-starter, able to work with limited supervision.

Email resumes to Lara at lozaki@micronesiarenewableenergy.com or mail to P.O. Box 7810 Tamuning, Guam 96931

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JAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(1) CARPENTER
- With 4 to 5 years experience

If interested, send resume to:
P.O. Box 504249 CK
Tel: 285-5354

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Business Consultant (Interpreter)
Salary $1,800.00 per month
Minimum of 5 years experience.
Must be able to interpret and translate for both Japanese and English
Interested applicants please send resume to martingd28@yahoo.co.jp
No later than February 6th, 2016
JOB MARKET USA CORPORATION

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN
Qualifications: Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) years of experience. Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than February 04, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant

Restaurant Waitress (3): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time. We prefer full time applicants.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3 months experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant (MISA Bldg. 1) in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

www.saipantribune.com

G4S

Job Vacancy Announcement

(30) Security Officer

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification at G4S Office located at Beach Road Ladera Building, Chalan Lau-lau.
For more information call (670) 233-3238/39 or email at cnmi@gu.g4s.com
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Delivery Driver (5)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities
Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions
- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai
Closing Date: February 5, 2016

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Saipan Tribune is inviting qualified candidates to apply for **ACCOUNTANT** position.

Qualifications:
- Associates degree in Finance or Accounting
- At least three years work-related experience in financial accounting with an emphasis on receivables and payroll
- Proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word, and PowerPoint office
- Knowledge in SAP R3 FICO accounting system is a plus, but not required
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player
- Above average written and oral English communication skills

Interested applicants may submit resume or obtain employment application at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located on 2nd floor of JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00pm, Friday, February 5, 2016.**

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Mariana Entertainment LLC

For immediate hiring
FULL OR PART-TIME POSITION

SLOT ATTENDANT
- Will Train.
- Responsible to proactively seek interaction with slot customer for purpose of building positive business relationships.
- Trouble shoot and assist guest with their slot machines issues and perform minor gaming machine malfunctions
- Reporting any machine operational or technical issues to appropriate technical support personal.
- Ability to accurately explain various game combinations payouts and jackpots

QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Diploma or equivalent, with 12 months of previous successful work-related experience with Guest Services. Must be able to work various shifts, including evenings, weekends and holidays. Good command of verbal and written English, second language preferred; Chinese, Korean or Japanese.

BOOKKEEPER
- General office clerk needed. Light bookkeeping. Able to do general office work to assist manager and be familiar with QuickBooks. Responsible for daily, weekly and monthly sales reports. Report to accountant in preparation of various federal and government tax returns. Record daily account activities, maintain book of accounts.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Must be proficient in MS word, excel, QuickBooks system software. Knowledge in general accounting. Can manage and monitor receivables and payables. Must have a minimum of 12 months of previous successful work-related experience in accounting. College graduate or equivalent preferred. Good Command of verbal and written English. Must have own transportation.

Closing Date Monday, February 15, 2016.
Marina Heights Business Plaza Suite 203
Please email your resume to club88mholl@gmail.com or call 670-233-0888
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Kerber stuns Serena for first Grand Slam title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—After all the advice that Steffi Graf gave her, Angelique Kerber was able to return a favor to the retired champion on Saturday.

Graf's record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles in the Open era is intact — for now — after Kerber staged a stunning upset of No. 1-ranked Serena Williams to win her first major at the Australian Open.

It means Williams' tally of majors stays at 21 and the list of Grand Slam champions gets an elated and exuberant newcomer.

"This is the first big tournament of the year, and I won it, the first Grand Slam. It sounds crazy, but I can say I'm a Grand Slam champion now," said Kerber, who was in a final for the first time in 33 major tournaments. She was still wide-eyed and in disbelief two hours after beating Williams 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in a tense and often riveting 2-hour, 8-minute match.

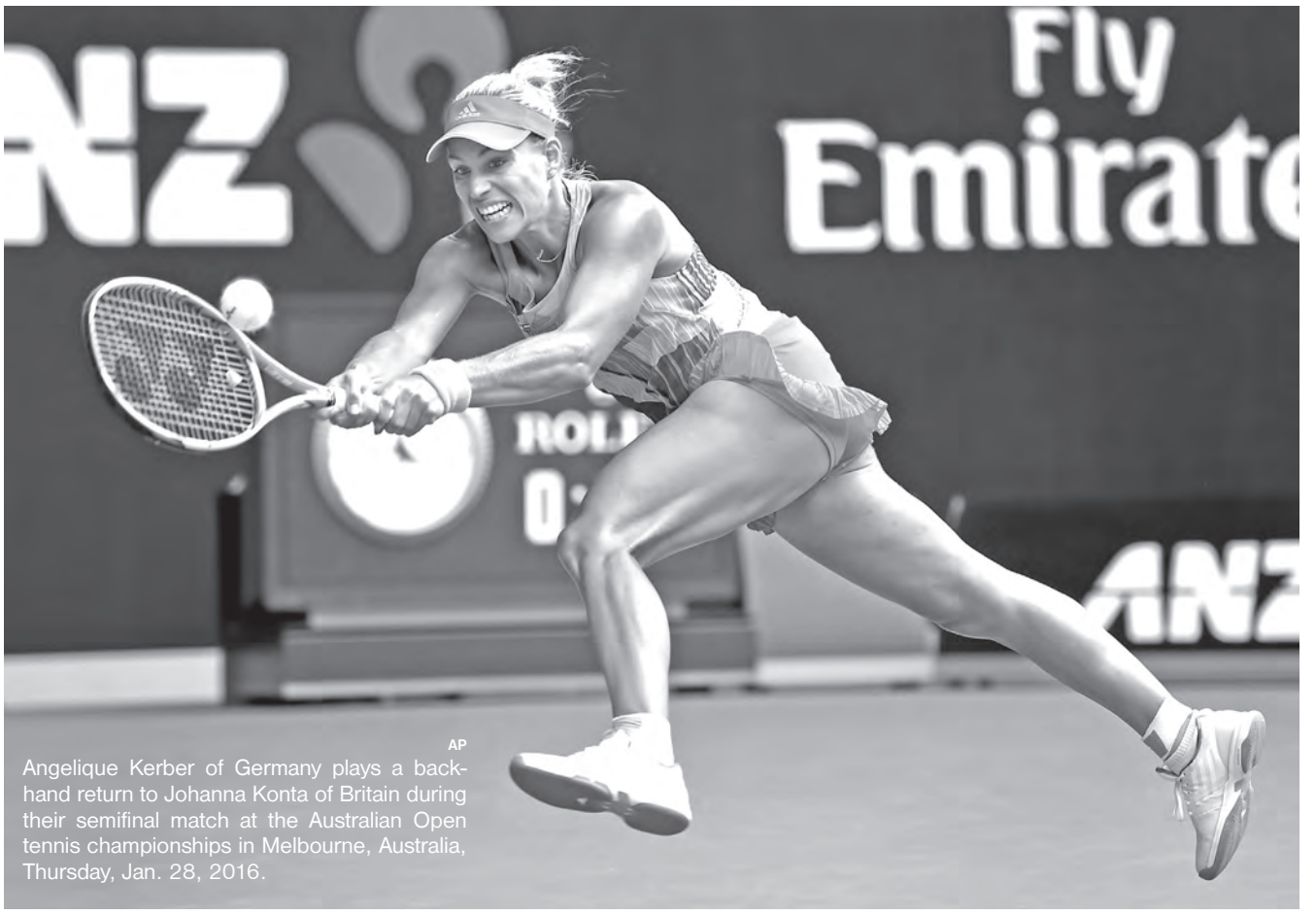
The win will elevate Kerber to a career-high ranking of No. 2. She was seeded seventh in this tournament.

It also makes her the first German woman to win the Australian Open since Graf in 1994 and the first German to win a Grand Slam since Graf's final win before retiring in 1999 at the French Open.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was quick to send congratulations.

"With this victory you have not only fulfilled your own biggest dream but also, once again 17 years after Steffi Graf, the hopes of millions of tennis fans of a German winning the Grand Slam tournament," Merkel said in a statement.

"It was fascinating to see how courageously and, with such nerves of steel, how you prevailed in the final against arguably the best player in the world. I hope you will enjoy the victory fully and then go on to many more successes."



AP
Angelique Kerber of Germany plays a backhand return to Johanna Konta of Britain during their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016.

Heading into the Australian Open, the big question was whether anyone could beat Williams, the defending champion going for her seventh win at Melbourne Park. A few names were tossed around, but not Kerber's.

Kerber had been in the Top 10 for four years and her best result at a major was the semifinals at 2012 Wimbledon and 2011 U.S. Open.

Last year, she lost her first-round match in Melbourne and came close to repeating it this year when she saved a match point in her first-round win over Misaki Doi.

"When I played here the first round I was match point down so I was actually with one leg in the plane to Germany and now I'm here," Kerber told the crowd in the 15,000-seat Rod Laver Arena, which started out supporting Williams and quickly switched.

That close call made Kerber feel she had nothing to lose. And that's how she played Saturday night in the biggest match of her life.

Williams was not at her best. But Kerber chased everything down, ripped ferocious cross-court winners and took a lot of risks.

In the sixth game of the third set, which went over 10 minutes, she was a game point down and produced a beautiful backhand drop shot from the baseline that drew roars and applause. And a few points later, she did it again before breaking Williams to take a 4-2 lead.

Throughout the tournament, Kerber has talked about advice she received from Graf, her childhood idol who is now a mentor.

Last year, she got to play some rallies with Graf during a visit to Las Vegas, where Graf lives with her husband Andre Agassi and their two children. Graf told her she was good and headed in the right direction, and to try to believe in herself — a mantra she kept repeating in her head, Kerber said.

The mental conditioning paid off.

"I think I helped Steffi right now," she said smiling, when asked about preserving Graf's record. "Steffi is a champion. She won 22 Grand Slams. That's my first one... The hard work pays off."

Graf sent her a text message before the final to wish her luck.

And there was another one waiting in her phone Saturday night, along with many, many others.

"I think my phone is exploding right now. I don't know how many messages I got," Kerber said. But the phone's battery died soon after her big win, so she couldn't immediately see what Graf said.

"I was just able to call my mom, my parents, my grandparents, and that's it," Kerber said. "So I have no idea."

SIDEBAR Djokovic looks to join Laver, Borg

MELBOURNE—Novak Djokovic is poised to enter Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg territory as he chases a record-equalling sixth Australian Open title in Sunday's final against Andy Murray.

The peerless world number one is strongly favoured to deny Murray for a fourth time in the Melbourne final and secure a victory which would push him further up the list of the sport's greats.

Should he again vanquish the world number two, Djokovic will join Borg and Laver with 11 Grand Slam titles, and equal Roy Emerson's record of six Australian crowns —and all at the age of just 28.

Djokovic destroyed the all-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer in Thursday's semifinal to yet again underline his dominance in the men's game, and enter his fifth straight major final.

"Fighting for a Grand Slam trophy is a pinnacle of our sport. This is exactly where you want to be," Djokovic told reporters on Saturday.

"You work hard to put yourself in this position. Of course, adding to that the fact that I am able to make history is just an additional encouragement and incentive for me to do well. "If you want to win Grand Slam titles and be the best in the world, you have to win against the best players in the world. Going to be ready for that."

This will be the 31st meeting between the pair in a rivalry that goes back to their junior days.

Murray is just seven days older than the Serb and while he enjoyed some success earlier on the professional tour, Djokovic has won 10 of their last 11 encounters.

Djokovic holds a 6-2 win-loss record against the Scot in Slams and a 3-2 advantage in major finals. There is not much each other does not know about the other's game.

"It's two games that are very much alike, so it's basically who's going to outplay who from the baseline," Djokovic said.

"I think serve is an important factor in tomorrow's match. I think both of us will try to serve high percentage of first serves and not allow the other player to attack the second serve too many times.

"Yeah, a lot about tactics and a lot about how you handle your emotions of the greatness of that occasion of playing for the Grand Slam title."

Djokovic wore down Murray in last year's attritional final, in which the first two sets lasted two-and-a-half hours, and is renowned for his powers of endurance.

Djokovic mastered Rafael Nadal in the longest ever Grand Slam final in five hours, 53 minutes at the 2012 Australian Open, and last year he won the physical battle as he put away Murray in four sets.

As well as his three losses to Djokovic in the Melbourne Park final in 2011, 2013 and 2015, the Scot also went down to Federer in the title match in 2010.

"I don't think many people are expecting me to win on Sunday," Murray said. "I have to just believe in myself, have a solid game plan, and hopefully execute it and play well.

"But the previous disappointments, it's one tennis match. Doesn't matter what's happened in the past really. It's about what happens on Sunday."

Djokovic, while confident of another victory, knows what lies ahead in Sunday's decider between two patient, defensive players.

"I'm expecting a battle with Andy, as it always is. Very physically demanding match. Lots of rallies, exchanges. It's no secret we know how we play against each other," he said.

Murray's second serve, once considered a weakness, has more power and the extra oomph gives him more weapons to complement his already formidable return and defensive game.

"There has been a lot of talks about his second serve, and I'm sure he and his team are very much aware of that," Djokovic said.

"But on the other hand, I'm also working on things to improve, and I'm sure that we will try to explore each other's weaknesses tomorrow and see what happens."

D-backs send Anderson, Hill to Brewers SS Segura, Wagner

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Arizona Diamondbacks tried to boost their lineup, getting former NL All-Star shortstop Jean Segura in a five-player trade with the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday.

The Diamondbacks also acquired right-hander pitcher Tyler Wagner for righty Chase Anderson, infielder Aaron Hill, minor league shortstop Isan Diaz and cash.

Arizona went 79-83 last season, then signed free agent ace Zack Greinke and traded for All-Star pitcher Shelby Miller.

Diamondbacks general manager Dave Stewart said his team was "seeking a little bit more offense."

"We felt there was a need to do" this deal, he said on a conference call.

The Diamondbacks ranked second among NL teams in scoring last year. They traded outfielder Ender Inciarte, who hit .303 with 21 steals, to Atlanta in the Miller deal.

The 25-year-old Segura hit .257 with six homers, 50 RBI and 25 steals last season.

Segura was an All-Star in 2013 with Milwaukee after a big start to his first full season in the majors. He dipped after the break and then slumped the following year.

Segura was one of the players traded from the Angels to Milwaukee for Greinke in 2012.

Stewart said Segura was someone who could hit at the top of the Arizona lineup, depending on how he did.

Segura is a career .266 hitter with 96 steals since making his big league debut in 2012 with the Angels.

Nick Ahmed started 116 times at shortstop for Arizona last year. Known much more for his glove than bat, he hit .226.

With Hill gone, Chris Owings figures to get a full-time shot at second base.

Stewart said having extra middle infielders could lead to more trade possibilities. He said the team was looking at middle relievers and closers, and that he'd already gotten a text from another GM asking how this trade might impact other moves.

Barnes' late 3-pointer lifts Warriors over 76ers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—This was a game even the Warriors felt they should have lost.

Harrison Barnes hit a 3-pointer with 0.2 seconds remaining and Golden State escaped with a 108-105 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday.

Klay Thompson had 32 points and Stephen Curry scored 23 for the Warriors, who nearly blew a 24-point second-half lead. Draymond Green added 10 points and 13 rebounds for Golden State, which opened a three-game road trip with its sixth straight victory while matching the NBA's best start through 47 games.

It ties the 1966-67 76ers, who also won 43 of their first 47.

"If the gods delivered what should have happened, we probably should have lost because that's what happens when you mess around with the game and the ball," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

Isaiah Canaan had 18 points to lead the 76ers, who dropped to 7-41 but nearly pulled off the most improbable victory of the NBA season.

"It shows we have no letdown, no backdown," Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said.

Philadelphia trailed by double-digits most of the second half until a late 15-2 run tied the game at 105 with 22.3 seconds left. The Warriors won it when Curry passed inside to Green, who fired outside to Barnes on the right baseline.

"We kind of went into it knowing they were going to trap Steph, so whoever it was that got the ball tried to make a play," Barnes said. "(Green) made that kick to the corner. I just let it ride."

Brown said the 76ers weren't going to let Curry get off a shot.

"Anybody but the MVP," he said.

Ish Smith scored 18 points and Jahlil Okafor, who returned after missing two straight games due to illness, had 13.

The Warriors tied a franchise record with 26 assists in a dominating first half when they went up 73-54. They seemed on cruise control until Philadelphia's stunning rally.

Nerlens Noel made an alley-oop dunk and Smith 16-footer followed and, suddenly, the 76ers were within 103-99 with 1:01 left.

Following a timeout, Canaan converted a four-point play after hitting a 3 and being fouled by Curry to make it 105-103 with 38.6 remaining. Smith then stripped Curry and finished with a dunk to tie it. After Barnes' shot, Philadelphia was unable to get a final shot off after inbounding the ball at halfcourt.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Harrison Barnes, center, battles for a rebound with Philadelphia 76ers' Hollis Thompson, right, and Robert Covington during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, in Philadelphia. Golden State won, 108-105.

Pacers 109, Nuggets 105, OT

In Indianapolis, Monta Ellis scored a season-high 32 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Indiana Pacers past the Denver Nuggets.

Ellis missed a 3-pointer with the game tied at 99 as regulation ended, but he converted a three-point play with 20.4 seconds left in overtime to seal it and send the Pacers to a second straight victory.

Danilo Gallinari led Denver with 23 points, and Kenneth Faried added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Pacers starting center Ian Mahinmi sat out with sore lower back.

Raptors 111, Pistons 107

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan had 29 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the Detroit Pistons to push the team's franchise-best win streak to 11 consecutive games.

Kyle Lowry had 18 points and backup center Bismack Biyombo added 12 points and 13 assists. Cory Joseph also had 16 points off the bench.

Reserve guard Brandon Jennings led the way for Detroit with 22 points, with starter Kentavious Caldwell-Pope contributing 15. Andre Drummond had 11 points and 12 rebounds for his NBA-leading 39th double-double.

Pelicans 105, Nets 103

In New Orleans, Jrue Holiday hit a 15-foot shot with 1.3 seconds remaining and the New Orleans Pelicans held off the Brooklyn Nets.

New Orleans' Anthony Davis scored 20 points and grabbed 16 rebounds in his first game back after sitting out with a concussion. Davis started 0 for 10 from the floor before finding his rhythm.

The Pelicans (18-28) and Davis were helped by Ryan Anderson's 24 points off the bench. Holiday's final shot gave him a team-best 26 points.

Brook Lopez scored 33 points and had 10 rebounds to lead the Nets, who lost for the third straight game and allowed an opponent to shoot 44 percent or better for the 12th consecutive game.

Spurs 117, Cavaliers 103

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 29 points and Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving added 21 apiece as the Cleveland Cavaliers finally took down one of the NBA's elite teams, beating the San Antonio Spurs.

The Cavs won their fourth straight under coach Tyronn Lue, who was promoted after David Blatt was fired on Jan. 22. Cleveland came in 0-5 against San Antonio, Golden State and Chicago, three top-tier teams who figure to contend with them for a title this season.

Kawhi Leonard scored 24 and LaMarcus Aldridge 15 for the Spurs.

Wizards 123, Rockets 122

In Houston, John Wall had 19 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds and the Washington Wizards rallied for a win over the Houston Rockets to snap a three-game losing streak.

Ramon Sessions had 17 points off the bench, Jared Dudley had 16 points and Marcin Gortat had 13 points and 11 rebounds. The Wizards shot 52 percent.

James Harden had 40 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds, but Houston lost its third straight. Dwight Howard had 20 points and seven rebounds for the Rockets but was ejected for the second straight game.

Grizzlies 121, Kings 117

In Memphis, Jeff Green scored 29 points, Marc Gasol had 22 points, six rebounds and five assists, and the Memphis Grizzlies thwarted a fourth-quarter rally to defeat the Sacramento Kings.

The Kings, who lost their fourth straight, pulled within 118-117 on a 3-pointer from Darren Collison with 18.7 seconds left. Courtney Lee converted two free throws for a 120-117 lead. On the next possession, Collison lost the ball, the Kings' 19th turnover, and Memphis held on for its third straight win and ninth in the last 11.

Rudy Gay led the Kings with 21 points, including 13 in the fourth.

Man City, Arsenal and Tottenham reach 5th round of FA Cup

LONDON (AP)—Manchester City remained in the hunt for a record trophy quadruple after a hat trick from teenager Kelechi Iheanacho helped them demolish Aston Villa 4-0 in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Fringe players such as Iheanacho got their chance in fourth-round games throughout the day, which also saw wins for cup holder Arsenal and Tottenham, while Liverpool was held by West Ham to 0-0 in the late kickoff.

But City's convincing victory showed the real strength in depth of Manuel Pellegrini's squad, with 19-year-old Iheanacho taking over the goalscoring duties from Sergio Aguero, who watched from the bench.

The bookmakers already make City the favorite to win the English Premier League, where it lies second behind surprise leader Leicester City, and also to beat Liverpool in the League Cup final at Wembley Stadium on Feb. 28.

That leaves the Champions League, where City has a place in the last 16, and the FA Cup.

Iheanacho opened the scoring, and the 19-year-old striker converted a penalty 20 minutes later after Raheem Sterling was brought down in the area. Iheanacho struck again in the second half after a 30-yard (meter) run, and Sterling added City's fourth just two minutes after that.

Asked about Iheanacho's performance, Pellegrini said, "That's why we didn't replace (Stevan) Jovetic and Edin Dzeko—because I see him working every day and I know how important he can be."

The City coach also revealed he sent orders from the touchline for Iheanacho to take City's spot kick.

"It's unbelievable the way he takes penalties and I've seen him do it every day," Pellegrini said. "That's why he was the right option."

Down in north London, Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez scored one goal and made the other in a 2-1 home victory over second-tier side Burnley.

Sanchez set up defender Calum Chambers to give Arsenal the lead, only for Sam Vokes to head an equalizer for Burnley on the half-hour mark.

Sanchez struck the winner after the break, turning home Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's cross from close range.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was quick to play down his side's chances of a third consecutive FA Cup trophy.

"We are still in three competitions and we will try every time to get a team out to pass the round," he told the club website.

Nacer Chadli scored twice as Tottenham cruised to a 4-1 victory in the early kickoff at Colchester United, after a clash of heads left one of the home side's defenders in hospital.

Colchester said Alex Wynter suffered a deep cut in his mouth and was slightly disorientated, but "otherwise doing OK" after colliding with teammate Tom Eastman in the opening minutes.

Colchester, which is at the bottom of England's third tier, then managed to keep the Premier League title contender at bay until midway through the second half -- when Eric Dier scored with a deflected shot.

All injured Denver Broncos will go to Super Bowl

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Ryan Clady and Jeff Heuerman didn't even make it to training camp before getting injured during offseason workouts. They're going to the Super Bowl with the rest of their teammates, though.

The seven players on injured reserve will fly out with the team when the Denver Broncos leave for the Super Bowl on Sunday.

That's a departure from two years ago when former coach John Fox left behind all his injured players, including stars Von Miller and Chris Harris Jr., when the Broncos flew to New York.

"I think it's great," said Clady, who's missing his second Super Bowl, last time with a foot injury, this time with a knee injury. "I like the fact that everybody's coming because honestly I thought it was going to be like last time."

Coach Gary Kubiak said it's all part of his promise he made to the team from the start.

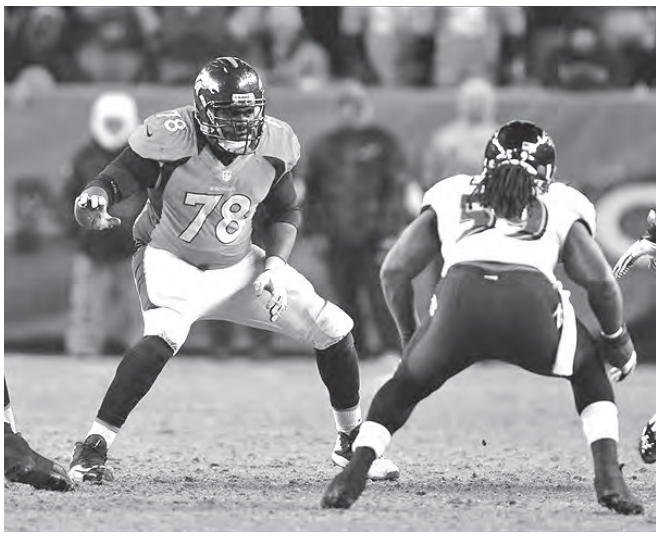
"We're all in this together," Kubiak explained. "There are guys that we've lost through the course of the year. ... But they've been a big part of us. They've been with us. One thing I ask guys to do when they're on IR is stay involved with the team, don't just remove themselves. Guys have done that.

"It's important. Everybody is going Sunday. We're all together. We're going to do this together. That's the way we've been all year."

His players praised Kubiak's decision, especially Miller and Harris, who were awaiting ACL surgeries last time and didn't fly out until the families and staff members traveled late in Super Bowl week.

They missed out on media day madness, the team photo, all the fun, really.

Miller's season that year began with a six-game drug suspension and ended in December when he got hurt. He was allowed to stick around team headquarters during his NFL-mandated banishment, so being left behind during Super Bowl week was especially stinging, he said.



AP

Ryan Clady, who tore his ACL, and the other injured players of the Broncos will join the team in their game against the North Carolina Panthers.

"That four days, it ate me up, seeing them on TV and not being around them," Miller said.

Harris also has bitter memories of that decision, which was met with derision in the locker room.

"I mean, that was so hard to not be in any of that, to enjoy that," said Harris, who was hurt in the playoffs that year. "So, for those guys to get to enjoy that this time, I'm happy for those guys. To be able to show the true team aspect that everybody's been needed, I like that approach."

The Broncos figure the injured players all helped lay the foundation of this Super Bowl run. So they deserve to relish the trip just as much as recent reinforcements Shiloh Keo or Vernon Davis.

"I feel like I had a little bit of a stamp on this season," Clady said, "just being here for a long time and being a part of getting Peyton Manning here and the success we've had since he's been here. It's exciting. I'm happy for my teammates. Unfortunately, I can't play. But I'm happy for guys I've been working with for years, and we've been grinding.

SIDEBAR Super Bowl matchup masks an ugly year on field

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—A certain Hall of Fame quarterback in what will likely be his final game. A superstar in waiting on the big stage for the first time.

The NFL couldn't have scripted this Super Bowl much better. Peyton Manning and Cam Newton are the stars, but there will be no shortage of storylines to chew on as the Super Bowl returns to the Bay Area for the first time in 31 years.

Even the possibility of El Nino interfering with the festivities seems like a minor annoyance unless, of course, the fat cats have to sit in the rain to watch the game.

Too bad it took so much ugly football along the way to get this far.

No, it's not reflected in the TV ratings, which for the most part were stronger than ever. Fans still packed stadiums, and cities continued to battle over the right to give taxpayer money to billionaire owners.

But the football we watched this season— despite many exciting finishes —seemed at times almost unwatchable. That was true even deep into the playoffs, where bad fundamentals, poor officiating and scratch-your-head coaching decisions made you wonder at times just why professional football is the nation's favorite sport.

No one seems to know how to tackle anymore, as evidenced by the missed tackles that helped Carolina blow open its game against Arizona to get to the Super Bowl. The worry when the NFL cracked down on blows to the head and neck was that the game would become less violent, but what it's really become is less skilled.

Meanwhile, headhunters still roam from sideline to sideline, undeterred by the NFL's half-hearted efforts to clean up the game.

Sure, Cincinnati's Vontaze Burfict will be suspended for three games next season for a series of questionable hits culminating in one final blow to the head of Pittsburgh's Antonio Brown. But that's little consolation to Steeler fans, who saw their team barely miss getting by Denver while missing their star receiver because of the concussion Burfict gave him.

If anyone needs a reminder about what can happen to players getting hit repeatedly in the head, we got one last week with the grim story of former Giants safety Tyler Sash. An examination of his head after his death last September from an accidental overdose of pain killers showed the 27-year-old had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, a degenerative brain disease most likely caused by hits to the head.

Those hits remain the most pressing issue facing the league, which had at least 12 players put on the season ending injured reserve list this season because of concussions. Yes, football is a brutal sport, but the price some players are paying goes far beyond what they signed up for.

But the product the league puts on the field has other issues, too. Offensive line play is sloppy, receivers who can sometimes make spectacular one-handed catches all too often drop easy two-handed ones, and going deep means a 20-yard pass at most.

Meanwhile, all the decision to move back the extra point attempt did was introduce another element of false randomness into the game. The idea that New England may have lost out on a chance at the Super Bowl because of it will haunt Patriot fans far longer than Deflategate.

LOB CITY

From Page 28

City's chance to secure the title. Jeraldine made the first 2 points in the extension, while Jeralyn had an and-1 play, and Alegre canned a point-blanked shot to lift Lob City a 60-53 advantage, 2:47 left in the game.

Lob City kept the safe distance as Sun Palace fired blanks before an inside basket from Race ended the latter's silence and cut the former's deficit to 5, 55-60, 1:29 remaining on the clock. Sun Palace could have move further had it not went 0-for-4 from the foul line—Ira Palero and Chevy Kate Alipio missed two free throws each— in its next two possessions.

Lob City, on the other hand, got back-to-back jumpers from Kyla Ito and drew one free two apiece from the Castillo siblings to offset the field goal of Palero and the last 5 points off Sun Palace, courtesy of Alipio.

Jeralyn top-scored for Lob City with her 19 points, while Jeradine chipped in 17. Alegre also finished in double figures, adding 13, while Mikky Kautz contributed 8 and collared those offensive rebounds that gave Lob City several second-chance points in the fourth quarter where the eventual champion overhauled a 12-point deficit.

Sun Palace had its biggest lead, 44-32, after an Alipio putback just two minutes into the fourth canto. A 15-3 run capped by Jeraldine's layup tied the match, 47-all, 3:10 to go in regulation. It was a nip-and-tuck game from thereon with Sun Palace holding the lead for the last time at the 55-51 tally after Pagarao canned a pair of free throws and only 7.1 seconds were left in the fourth canto.

Lob City then sued for time and when the game resumed, Ito did the inbound play from the right sideline where players from both teams hung around. Ito then managed to pass the ball to Jeralyn, who swung the leather from the top key to the left sideline to her sister. Jeralyn was well covered and decided to dribble to her right before throwing up a prayer and banking in the biggest shot in the match.

Meanwhile, the boys U19 finale was also played last weekend and results of the Ol'Aces-Sonics showdown will be reported in Saipan Tribune's Tuesday issue.

Lob City 66—Jeralyn Castillo 10, Jeraldine Castillo 18, Alegre 13, Kautz 8, Ito 6, Alferos 2.

Sun Palace 62—Palero 17, Pagarao 13, Pablo 10, Alipio 9, Phan 4, Race 4, Abantao 3, Alcantara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-12, 25-18, 38-30, 53-53, 66-62 (OT).

360

From Page 28

lo was the third double-figure scorer for Blue Haus, contributing 12. Angelo Factor paced BSI with his 14 points.

BSI is 0-2 as it also lost its opener against Ace Hardware (2-0).

360 68—Ashburn 27, Viray 14, Hernandez 8, Cabanas 6, Gatdula 5, Borja 2, Dayrit 2.

Armatehc 47 — Moreno 11, Tolosa 10, Abuy 8, Berline 7, Park 6, Gabaldon 5.

Scoring by quarters: 26-5, 34-21, 58-36, 68-47.

MOC

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Manning, Eric Macduff, Jose Quan, and Bobby Cruz. The two MOC teams were neck and neck right at the get-go and were still shadowing each other at the turn at the left side of the beachfront before MOC Black went for the final push in the last 50m and won the sprint to the finish line.

Saipan Paddling Club joined the two MOC squads in the Top 3 after submitting 2:02.4.

Earlier in the preliminary race of the two-lap event, MOC Black was also the first finisher after tallying 1:50.94. MOC came in at second with its 1:51.78, followed by Guam's Taotao Galaide (2:01.04) and SPC (2:01.85).

Still in the 500m final results, four other teams earned top honors in their respective divisions.

In the men's juniors (17 and under), SPC 1 clocked in at 2:06.2 to prevail against SPC 2 (2:13.5) and Napu (2:15.1). In the preliminary, SPC 1 was ranked first after logging 2:06.91, while SPC and Napu timed in a 2:09.94 and 2:15.13, respectively, to settle for second and third.

In the women's juniors, SPC 1 triumphed both in the preliminary and finals after recording 2:29.17 and 2:28.10, respectively. Napu took the runner-up finish in the finals after posting 2:56.20 and preventing another 1-2 finish for SPC teams, as SPC 2 dropped to third following its 2:58.9 time in the title race. SPC 2 had 2:40.11 in the preliminary against the 2:47.91 of Napu.

In the open co-ed, Taotao Galaide was the runaway winner after submitting 2:11.4 against the 2:20.5 of Napu and 2:22.5 of SPC, while SPC registered 2:24.4 to prevail in the masters co-ed (35 and above) versus Napu (2:27.8). Taotao Galaide made a big jump as it was ranked third in the preliminary after timing in at 2:16.72 and behind SOC 2 (2:16.19) and Napu (2:16.48).

Meanwhile, SPC teams ruled the 1,500m races in the juniors division, while Taotao Galaide topped the open men's category.

SPC had a 1-2 finish in the six-lap men's juniors race with its first team clocking in at 7:26.6 against the second squad's 7:37.6. Napu was ranked third with its 8:11.9. In the women's juniors, SPC 2 won after logging 9:24.3 and placing ahead of SPC 1 and Napu.

In the men's open, Taotao Galaide jumped from second in the preliminary (6:58.16) to first in the finals (6:48.2). MOC Red, which was the first finisher in the preliminary with its 6:44.26, fell to second with its 6:53.7. MOC Black duplicated its feat in the preliminary following a third-best time in the finals (6:59.3). SPC completed the field and timed in at 7:26.34.

The Top 3 finishers in each races received medals during the awards ceremony of the competition that was held in memory of Timothy Lee Salas Wesley Jr., who died on Jan. 3, 2015 as he tried to rescue two young girls from drowning in the waters at Forbidden Island.

'Timmy Would Go' Memorial Paddle Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MOC Red crewmembers head to the finish line of the 1,500m race in last Saturday's "Timmy Would Go" Memorial Paddle Classic at the beachfront of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.

Teams in the co-ed 500m race head out to the course.

Saipan Paddlers Club's co-ed masters crewmembers, in blue shirts, try to catch up with Napu in the preliminary race.

MOC Black's Jasper Van Der Maas and Richard Sikkel leave the starting line.

Taotao Galaide crewmembers head out to the course for another lap in the 1,500m race.

Taotao Galaide crewmembers get ready for the start of the 500m race.

Napu youth paddlers stretch before the race.

Teams paddle their way to the starting line of the 500m race.

Kerber stuns Serena for first Grand Slam title

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Sports

Barnes' late 3-pointer lifts Warriors over 76ers

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MOC Black rules 500m sprint

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MOC Black crewmembers head out to the course during the men's open 500m race in last Saturday's 1st Annual "Timmy Would Go" Memorial Paddle Classic held at the beachfront of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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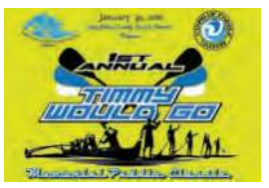
REPORTER

Marianas Outrigger Canoe Black topped the closest finals race in the Inaugural "Timmy Would Go" Memorial Paddle Classic held last Saturday at the beachfront of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.



The six-man crew of Billy Grow, Richard Sikkel, Jasper Van Der Maas, Mark Hapdei, Naum Vekhov, and Peter Pangelinan finished the 500m race in the men's open division in 1:53.6, beating the 1:53.9 of sister squad MOC Red, which was composed of Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, James Lee, Dino

See MOC on Page 26

360 gets first win in Emon Lodge caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

360 Restaurant barged into the win column of the 2016 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League after a 68-47 rout of Armatech yesterday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Andrew Ashburn led 360 Restaurant's first victory after firing a game-high 27 points. Kennedy Viray backed him up, adding 14.

360 Restaurant's 1-2 punch anchored the team's strong start, as it took a 26-5 lead in the first quarter against the depleted Armatech crew. Ashburn scored 10 points in the first frame, while Viray chipped in 8.

Armatech, which had only seven players for last weekend's game, was held to two field goals in the opening canto with Martin Moreno recording all of the team's 5 points off a triple and a layup.

Armatech picked up its scoring in the second quarter with James Abuy stepping up and knocking all his 8 markers to cut the deficit to 10 at the break, 32-42. 360 Restaurant failed to keep its momentum in the second period with Ashburn and Viray limited to one field goal apiece and Zack Johnson and Lawrence Borja also making only one basket each.

Ashburn then regained his form in the third canto to stretch their lead to 12, 58-26, and 360 Restaurant never looked backed to recover from its debut loss to GPPC earlier this month.

Armatech, which got 11 points from Moreno, absorbed its second loss in as many games as it also dropped its opener against Shirley's Coffeee Cup.

Meanwhile, the first game last Sunday was won by Mobil after a no-show from Blue Haus. Mobil is now in the solo lead with its perfect 3-0 record, while Blue Haus fell to a 1-1 slate. Blue Haus notched its first win against BSI, 78-60.

Angelo Fernando led Blue Haus' rout of BSI, as he tallied 22 points, while Brendon Talania added 18. Manolo Mana-

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Lob City outlasts Sun Palace in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Lob City took the women's division crown in the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament following a 66-62 overtime victory against Sun Palace in their winner-take-all finale last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Jeraldine Castillo knocked in a buzzer-beating long jumper to force the overtime and then teamed up with sister Jeralyn, Madi Alegre, and Kyla Ito in the extension period to complete Lob City's come-from-behind win against the then unbeaten Sun Palace.

Jeraldine unloaded the jumper from the left key and after she banked in the shot in front of Gabrielle Race and Irish Pagarao, the sizeable crowd went into pandemonium thinking the basket was a triple. To the dismay of majority of the spectators and the delight of Sun Palace, referee Ferdie Tobias ruled out the basket as a long 2-pointer saying Jeraldine's right foot stepped on the line when she pulled the trigger.

With the tough break, Lob City had to play five more minutes to steal the championship from Sun Palace, which came to the finals unbeaten in six games, including a 5-0 sweep in the elimination.

A 7-0 scoring run in the first three minutes and change of the overtime boosted Lob

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lob City's Madi Alegre dribbles closer to the basket and is defended by Sun Palace's Chevy Kate Alipio during the extension period of their title game in the women's division of the Tan Holdings holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.